

Sweden supports King's efforts for Middle East Conference

By Lella Deeb
Special to The Star

AMMAN — Swedish Ambassador in Jordan Lars Lonnback said his country fully supported His Majesty King Hussein's call for an international Middle East Peace Conference. He reiterated his country's support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, adding that Sweden nevertheless supported Israel's right to exist within secure, recognized borders in accordance with the 1947 United Nations Resolution 181 for the partition of Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state.

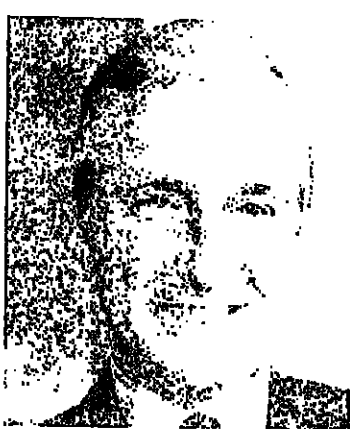
"We have to underline that Palestinians have rights and that the West Bank and Gaza, which could be theirs for a future Palestinian State, are still under occupation, and by maintaining this occupation, Israel continues to break international law," he said.

Lonnback was speaking to the Star after Sweden's United Nations representative Anders Fern had

presented a statement during the annual Palestine debate. He quoted Fern as saying that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 "provided essential elements for a comprehensive settlement and an adequate basis for negotiations...the understanding of my government of the essential thrust of these resolutions is that, as a result of negotiations, Israel would withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967."

"There is place for both a Palestinian and an Israeli states but they have to live together in peace," Lonnback commented, adding that Fern had stated that the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories formed a serious stumbling block in the path of the peace process, and constitutes a violation of international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention dealing with the treatment of people under occupation.

He said Sweden had often criticized Israel's refusal to implement international law, its maltreatment



Mr Lars Lonnback

and detention of Arabs, and other actions, and that the international community was watching with growing apprehension "how international law was being broken."

He expressed great sorrow at Israel's repressive handling of the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, now at the end of its third week, saying: "Now we see not only the ordinary Christmas

violence events, but something much more difficult." He also reiterated his country's stand against violence from both sides. Lonnback said that living conditions were particularly difficult in the Gaza Strip, where the construction of a proposed port to export Palestinian products might alleviate the economic situation by creating new job opportunities despite doubt about its great economic viability.

Sweden, he said, was in the midst of a media debate on the Palestine issue, with the press divided between support for the Arabs and Israel. He said Sweden had good relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) but had not accorded it diplomatic status, although had allowed a PLO information office to open in Stockholm. But, he said, Sweden had not decided whether to extend financial aid to the Gaza port project if Israel allowed it to go ahead.

Lonnback said his country fully supported all United Nations activi-

ties and participated in many, contributing 9.5 million US dollars in 1986 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and other charitable organizations in both the East and West Banks, and, therefore, had exhausted its aid funds and was unable to contribute to Jordan's Five-Year Programme for support of people in the occupied territories.

Lonnback praised Jordanian-Swedish relations, citing His Majesty King Hussein's 1985 official visit to Sweden, in addition to his and Crown Prince Hassan's private visits, saying both leaders shared many common positions with Sweden. "Both His Majesty and His Royal Highness had personal relations with our late Prime Minister Olof Palme with whom they shared a long-range philosophical approach to world affairs," he said. He added that the early December visit of Swedish Energy and Environment Minister Birgitta Dahl also enhanced these strong relations.

France

No arms to Iran

FRENCH DEFENCE Ministry spokesman Wednesday denied categorically allegations made in an article published in the French daily 'Le Monde' on 22 December saying that quantities of arms ordered in 1986 by some Portuguese companies from two French companies were channelled to Iran. He argued the authorization for exporting these arms was never granted to the companies by the French government, and thus they could not have been exported.

Here in Amman, the French Ambassador Mr Patrick Leclercq said that the liberation of two French hostages in Lebanon did not involve any commitment on his government's part to Iran. Even though the French government "has sought to normalize the French-Iranian relations," Mr Leclercq said, the normalization process would be under the following conditions. No change of French policy towards the Arab World, no change of the policy of co-operation with Iraq, and no selling of armament to Iran.

On the Reagan-Gorbachev summit held recently in Washington, the French diplomat said that France views with satisfaction any progress towards dearmament, and considers the INF Treaty an important step towards that goal. However, that very little time was devoted to regional issues during the summit.

Mr Leclercq described the present situation in the occupied Arab territories as being dramatic, saying that the tragic events in Gaza Strip and the West Bank "should bring all concerned (parties), and, of course, the occupation authorities whose obligations are, according to Geneva Convention, to ensure the protection and security of the population."

He reiterated his government's support for an international peace conference on the Middle East, adding that "more than ever, a dialogue and a negotiation should be started. The need for the international conference is dramatically felt."

Star

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Citadel update

ing Rabbat Ammon" stopped the cutting of a construction trench being made in preparation for building a school on the site.

As reported in the previous article, the excavation revealed the remains of a mosaic floor and walls of a building from the Byzantine period, which had been damaged by the bulldozers. The extent of the damage done to the structures from earlier periods have not been determined yet, due to limitations of funding for this project.

According to Dr. Adnan Hadidi, director general of the Jordan Department of Antiquities, (JDA) measures are being taken to study the recent findings at the citadel. Dr. Michele Piccirilli, an authority on Mosaics in Jordan, and the Cultural Resources Management Project (CRM), will report to the department after they have analysed the date collected from the salvage excavation.

Dr. Hadidi also said that at the moment, the JDA is concerned

about protecting the site and the mosaic on it, and is in the process of determining the best possible ways of doing this. It is important to the JDA, that while protecting antiquities, they do their best to keep them accessible to the public.

The JDA has had long range plans to excavate this area completely, considering the importance of the site, both as a cultural resource as well as a touristic attraction. However, further excavations will depend on the availability of funds, which are being eagerly sought.

A Ministry of Education source confirmed that the plans to build the Jebel Al Qal'a school at this site have been abandoned in the light of the recent discoveries made at the site. They are looking for an alternative site for the school.

For thorough information on the Citadel, see the article "Restoring Rabbat Ammon" in the Star Volume 8 Number 16 - 10-16 December 1987.



The construction trench that damaged the site

New effort to net Jordan fresh fish

By Lella Deeb
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — THE Senior Deputy Assistant of the American Secretary of State said that the cause of the current political unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which has already claimed more than 15 lives, was the absence of peace and a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"In our point of view, these tragic events are another fundamental reminder of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, and of the unresolved political status of the West Bank and Gaza," Edward Djerejian, who had served in Jordan as Deputy Chief of the US Mission until 1985, told Jordanian journalists in a telephone interview from Washington.

He said the United States felt strongly the need for both sides to exercise restraint and avoid con-

frontation which might add to the loss of life and more casualties, now double those incurred last year, but offered no fresh solution for the 40-year old conflict and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, now in its 21st year.

Djerejian repeated his country's view that a solution could only be found through a "properly structured" peace conference leading to direct negotiations between the parties concerned, but without power to impose solutions or veto bilateral agreements reached by negotiators, a position rejected by the Arabs.

"Our position is that the only thing that will work is a direct contact between the Arabs and Israel, and this is the immediate path that has to be accepted to get negotiations moving forward," he said, adding that the US was always willing to look at new ideas which could lead to direct negotiations. The Palestinians, he said,

must participate in every phase of negotiations, and the best means for that was within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

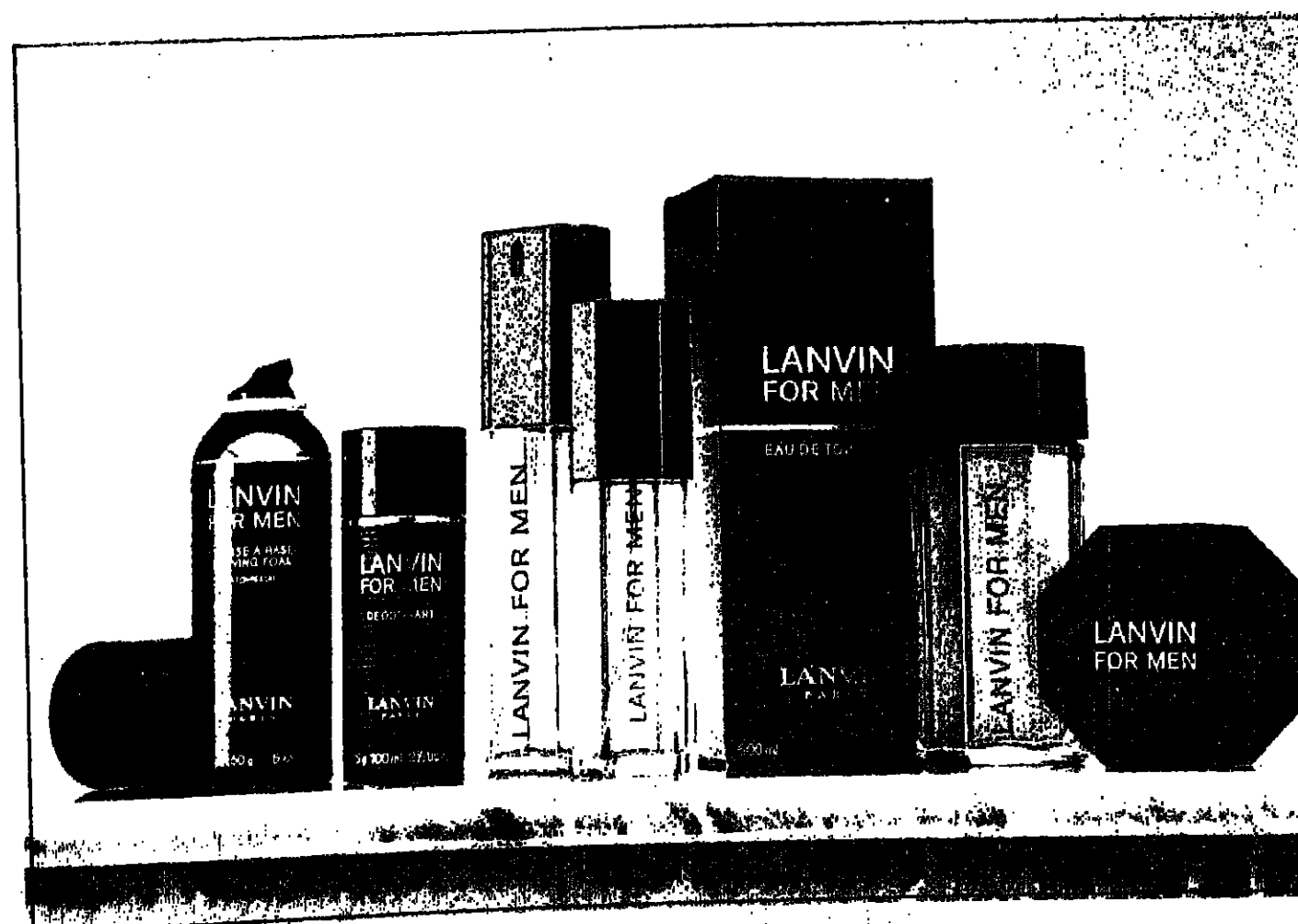
Dejerdjian said the last two years of American "quiet diplomacy" had shown considerable progress in the peace process, mostly due to the wisdom and leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, but explained "the progress" only by saying that Secretary of State George Schultz's October visit to the Middle East had shown that Jordanian, Egyptian and Israeli leaders reaffirmed the need to continue active efforts for convening a conference.

Asked about the reason for the low priority given to the Middle East issue at the recent Reagan-Gorbachev summit, Djerejian said the issue had been "vigorously" discussed by the two leaders and the working committees, but the US had seen nothing new in the Soviet position on a peace conference.

"Quite frankly, we did not find anything new in the Soviet position. We agree the conflict remains dangerous and contributes to the instability of the area, but there are fundamental disagreements on how to actually approach the whole process of negotiations, he said.

"We remain sceptical of Soviet willingness to play a truly constructive role in the peace process. The Soviets have to decide whether their objective is just to participate, to promote a just and peaceful settlement... that question is still open" added the American diplomat. He said the Soviets had to take concrete steps to show good will, such as reestablishing diplomatic relations with Israel and allowing Jewish immigration.

On the Gulf war, Djerejian told reporters that a new enforcement resolution must be taken by the UN Secretary Council to back Resolution 598. He said whoever rejected the implementation of 598 had to bear the consequences of sanctions.



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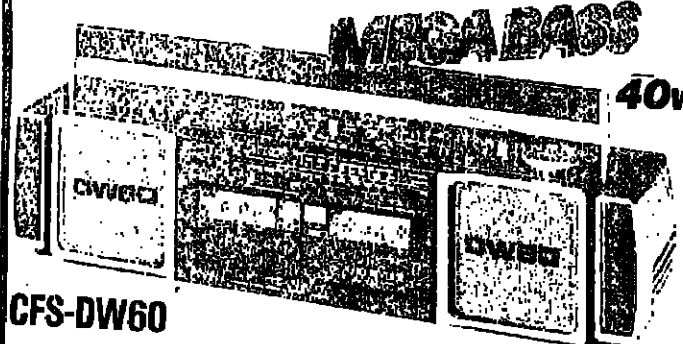
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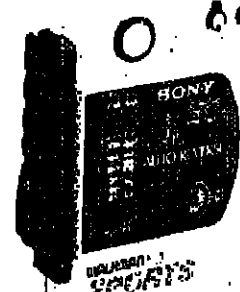
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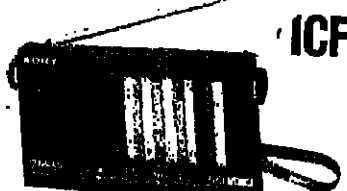
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Though the specializations the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC) at Yarmouk University offers are relatively new when compared with other departments, its graduates seem to have all the doors closed before them. Some say they are not suitably qualified to enter the competitive world of journalism and public relations. Others argue the country has not yet come to realize the need for specialists in this field. Our reporter Pam Dougherty investigates the matter to present what the men behind the (DJMC) have to say.

Special to The Star

THE YARMOUK University Department of Journalism and Mass Communications (DJMC) — a training ground for unemployment, or timely preparation for the brave new world of communications?

The value of the DJMC programme, and of formal training in journalism generally, has been much debated in recent months, with discussion culminating in a two-day seminar on "Unemployment Among Journalism Graduates", organized this week by the Jordan Press Association (JPA).

DJMC Chairman, Dr Zaid Rifal, and his staff have found themselves somewhat under siege from members of the profession and from the general public who believe that good journalism comes from natural talent rather than formal training and that institutions, such as the Yarmouk department, can serve no useful purpose.

Dr Rifal believes that much of the argument stems from a limited understanding of the role and value of communications in modern society. "We are in an age of increasingly complex information," he says, "and there is a real need for trained specialists to organize that information and bring it to the public."

"A knowledge of the role of information in development is particularly crucial in Third World countries," says Dr Rifal, his department places particular emphasis on giving students a broad education to develop their social awareness and their understanding of all aspects of communications, ranging from the technical aspects of publishing and the electronic media to reader psychology, so that they will be able to make a real contribution to the development process.

"They are not just training potential reporters for Jordan's three Arabic language daily newspapers, as many people seem to imagine," he says. "DJMC prepares students for all aspects of print journalism, not just the daily newspapers, as well as for radio and television work, public relations and advertising — all of which are required in fields ranging widely from commercial selling to the promotion of better health habits."

According to Dr Rifal, now is the time for potential employers to adjust their thinking on the whole question of information and communications and to explore ways in which the Yarmouk graduates

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Brave new world Misunderstood

could play a useful role.

Dr Rifal puts a persuasive case for his department's role, but DJMC has also faced criticism of the quality of its graduates. At present, the department, which is a department of Yarmouk's College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, offers three specializations — news-editorial which offers training for news correspondents, news editors and photographers; radio and television which prepares students as broadcasters, camera-men, technicians or producers, and public relations and advertising which teaches students to plan and execute PR programmes, design advertising and prepare a range of media messages.

All students have to fulfil a range



Al-Sanabel, first produced by DJMC of university and college requirements which include English and

Arabic languages, computer science, military and community service, Arabic literature and history, current affairs, and education policy in Jordan. They work on a common first and second year programme and begin their specialization in third year.

DJMC staff member Dr Badran says the aim of the department is to strengthen the students' cultural backgrounds, to give them an understanding of the wider social context in which information is created and presented, and to encourage in them a critical and analytical approach to the business of communications. He says it is important that those working in the field of communications be able to understand the information they

are presenting and not be dependent upon outside sources for explanations as they are now, particularly in the field of journalism.

Dr Badran believes that the Yarmouk courses give students both a theoretical background and an intensive practical training — the department produces its own newspaper and has a full range of radio and television equipment — but that this training can only come to maturity in a work setting.

The department also offers a course on "Internship in media" which takes a full semester and gives students the opportunity for genuine work experience. Jordan's three Arabic dailies, the Petra newsagency, Royal Jordanian and the Housing Bank are among the organizations which accept students. The feedback from the internship programme enables staff to adjust teaching programmes where necessary. Students who prove their value during their internship also boost their chances for a permanent job when they graduate.

Dr Badran acknowledges that many of the department's students are weak in languages, both Arabic and English, but he says this is more a reflection of the generally low standard of languages in Jordanian schools than a particular weakness of the department. The department has tried to improve standards particularly by working with the university Language Centre to gear language courses more to improving the students' journalistic skills.

Dr Badran suggests that, although the charge of poor Arabic standards is commonly levelled against the department by the Jordanian newspaper staff, the standard within the newspapers themselves is also poor. He says that, compared with other states such as Kuwait, Lebanon and Egypt, Jordan's newspapers have a generally low level both of writing and editing, certain talented individuals notwithstanding.

He also believes that there are too few journalists and editors in Jordanian newspapers who know the subjects on which they work sufficiently well to be accurate, critical and genuinely informative.

And it is because of this lack in the local press that both he and Dr Rifal believe formal academic training in journalism is necessary in Jordan. There is little scope for innovation and change, says Dr Rifal, if all training in journalism within the system as newcomers are socialized too strongly into the existing system with all its strengths and weaknesses. All editors whose own language is weak or whose approach to the job of information gathering and dissemination is limited can hardly be expected to improve the standards or widen the horizons of a new-comer.

Dr Badran would like to see the overall quality of the department's intake improved. He says that few applicants for places in the department have a realistic idea of what journalism or public relations are about, and it is not easy to attract students of the highest caliber. At the same time, he says, there is more to the field of journalism and communications than producing "name" journalists and media personalities.

Dr Rifal and Dr Badran suggest that when the community broadens its understanding of the role of communications and of the need for trained communicators, the range of jobs available to DJMC students should expand and more of the now unemployed graduates will have a chance to put their skills to work.

24 DECEMBER 1987

Seminar on unemployment among media graduates: Diagnosing the problem — applying the cure!

By Wafa Amr
Star Staff Writer

A TWO-day seminar on unemployment among media graduates in Amman on 18-19 December under the patronage of His Highness Crown Prince Hassan did not only focus on the means of finding immediate jobs for those unemployed graduates, but dealt with the problem from a broader perspective.

"The problem is not employing graduates; it lies in the general belief in the necessity of a process of teaching journalism," said Dr Zaid Al Rifal, the Chairman of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications at Yarmouk University DJMC which the seminar aimed at, and to achieve, a recognition of media, as a profession, is essential and that the academic preparation for such a profession is an important role in the creation of a successful journalist. He said that only then can we take up the problem of unemployment. His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, called for the recognition of the journalism sector as a professional umbrella, as a would "contribute to the absorption of qualified manpower. In turn, could lead to ending problems and difficulties in the journalism sector."

Among the participants, "well-established and notable figures" in journalism, argued against the academic preparation of journalists in universities or community colleges. They said that only on-the-job training makes a professional journalist. There was a debate in the seminar that centred around whether there is a need for the existence of the media department at Yarmouk University, since each year it adds to the number of unemployed graduates. Mr Baker Al-Suddoud, editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine Al-Raed said that many famous journalists today were not studied journalism. They were either political writers or specialized in literature. He added that academic achievement in journalism is not necessary to make a successful journalist.

Dr Rifal, however, stressed the difference between the study of politics and literature from that of journalism. He said "Journalism is a bridge that fills the gap between them in journalistic writing". Fakry Al Nimri, a journalist and a member of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA), said that a university degree is obtained for the purpose of increasing one's awareness and education, whereas the suitability of job opportunities depends on conditions of demand and supply and on the job-seeker's ability to fill the job. "The JPA," he said, considers a university degree in media as insufficient for a graduate to become a good journalist. It does not allow him to obtain the membership of the association without prior training. Journalism graduates have to undergo a period of three months training before becoming members of the JPA.

"Three months' training was awarded for the benefit of the intended journalist to test his desire to remain a journalist after being faced with the realities of journalism," explained Rakan Al Makhadmeh, president of the JPA.

Mr Muhammad Al Shuraida, professor at the (DJMC) at Yarmouk University, delivered a working paper on behalf of the department, in which he emphasized the importance of academic preparation for a journalist. He said: "This preparation is composed of three elements. The first part is the

theoretical element which derives its importance from the fact that communication is a scientific, social, psychological process. Thus, there is a need for the study of communications scientifically to understand the process before using it. The second part, which is the practical one, complements the first part." He pointed out that it includes enriching the students with knowledge in fields such as languages, history, management, economics, social sciences, psychology, politics, statistics, and so on. Mr Shuraida added that, although he understands the association's choice not to consider academic achievement as a vital element in employing its staff, yet he still finds it imperative to give academically prepared "new blood" a chance to use the skills learned through four years of study.

Unemployed media graduates, on the other hand, expressed their opinion on this matter by arguing that they have to pass a training course in one of the local newspapers for a period of three months before fulfilling the requirements of their degree. This training experience, with all the real life work a journalist undergoes, should be sufficient to permit them to enroll in the association upon graduation.

Jawad Amin Shuraida, a 1984 DJMC graduate, said that the association's law blocks the way in the face of those graduates seeking jobs. The association's law represents an obstacle to the media university degree holders.

Prince Hassan said that the process of university education and field training should be regarded as one constant line leading to the creation of distinguished journalists who can find employment locally, regionally and internationally. "This," said the Crown Prince, "can open wide scopes for the new graduates, and at the same time, offer them access to the profession of journalism." Following from this point, Prince Hassan recommended the establishment of an information centre which will, no doubt, open new scopes for journalists to embark on research and analysis of news and information, which can lead to the improvement of the profession itself. "The centre can also absorb new graduates can offering them employment," said the Prince. Prince Hassan also stressed the need for specialized journalism as work in the information media was becoming more and more specialized. He remarked that "there should be sufficient academic training and qualification for journalists, and there should be programmes for future work in the different specializations." He called on the JPA to work out a training programme to help the new graduates in getting training on the hands of professional journalists in order to help develop in them the desire for attaining knowledge, and impart to them the elements necessary for their profession.

The unemployed graduates complained that their problem also stems from the fact that they are not given the chance to prove their capabilities and skills after graduation. They argued that the three official newspapers do not abide by the association's law that priority of employment should be given to media graduates. They maintained that the papers employ graduates from other specializations, and allow other part-time jobs at low salaries. They called for the opening of new daily newspapers to absorb unemployed graduates. The JPA also made the same proposal, but according to other participants in the seminar, such a step would only serve "the interest of certain people who seek to benefit from setting up their own newspapers —



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan acts as patron of the seminar on unemployment among media graduates

a solution which will not change the current situation." They, the newspapers, will follow the same employment process the existing papers are adopting. The main aim will be to make profit.

The Ministry of Information representative in the seminar called on the Press and Publication Department (PPD) to modify its laws with regard to setting the standard for would-be publishers at no less than obtaining a degree in journalism.

In order to help overcome the unemployment problem among media graduates, the seminar recommended that the Yarmouk University's Journalism and Mass Communication Department review its admission policies and be selective in enrolling new under-graduates.

The media graduates suggested that the department turn out one media batch every four years instead of doing that annually.

Such a move, the graduates argued, would "reduce the number of graduates seeking employment, thus easing the market glut. JPA President supported Prince Hassan's argument that unemployment among media graduates "is nothing compared with the thousands of job-seekers in other sectors."

Another recommendation called on the Ministry of Labour to refrain from issuing work permits for non-Jordanian journalists without prior approval by the JPA.

Regarding the public relations sector, the seminar urged the public and private institutions to give further importance to public relations in order to create effective public relations departments. However, an argument was raised that public relations were not related to journalism. "It is a completely different subject that should not be connected with journalism," a participant said.

Dr Rifal rejected this concept and argued that public relations were an integral part of journalism. "The two complement one another, because one cannot be a successful journalist without developing public relations ability and vice versa," he said. Mr Munees Tougan, editor-in-chief of the Royal Jordanian's magazine Al-Ahwa, said that public relations were misunderstood and misused in Jordan. "Institutions and individuals use the public relations employees for achieving personal publicity," he said.

Mr Tougan noted that there was a widespread lack of information in these institutions which necessitates the role played by an effective public relations department. He proposed the setting up of an executive committee for the purpose of co-ordinating between agencies and departments concerned with external communications.

The paper submitted by the unemployed graduates included data on the number of public institutions that actually have a public relations department as well as the number of public relations degree holders filling this job. Until October 1987, the paper noted, the ministries of Finance and Transportation did not employ any graduates in this field. The Ministry of Planning, on the other hand, has two public relations with secondary school diplomas.

The seminar also called for laying the foundation for integrated policies that can control, conduct and guide information services in the Kingdom in order to ensure credible media services that are capable of countering foreign campaigns.

Observers said that the seminar was a positive step towards reducing future hurdles in the media sector provided that the recommendations and resolutions adopted are taken seriously.

They argued the seminar may not help solve the graduates problems in the immediate future and by the time the recommendations are implemented the number of unemployed graduates would be much higher and the situation will be more difficult to cope with. They expressed the hope that the recommendations will urge the ministries and local press to contribute constructively, to solve the unemployed graduates problem, and to the progress of media in Jordan in general.



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Jordan



His Majesty King Hussein delivers a speech at a dinner banquet given in his honour by Soviet President Andrei Gromyko



King Hussein and Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev

King ends successful visit to Soviet Union Frankness, understanding characterize discussions

THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home yesterday evening after a three-day official visit to the Soviet Union during which His Majesty held talks with Soviet President Andrei Gromyko, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Talks during the visit centred on regional and international issues, especially the Gulf War and the need to bring it to an end and on the basis of Security Council resolution 598.

Talks also dealt with the current situation in the occupied Arab territories, and the proposed UN-sponsored international peace conference in the Middle East to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Members of the delegation accompanying King Hussein on the visit discussed with their Soviet counterparts bilateral relations, and issues of mutual concern.

The two sides agreed on the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Soviet committee to expand the

scope of economic co-operation between the two countries.

His Majesty was received upon arrival at Amman airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, members of the Royal Family, and a number of high ranking Jordanian Civil and Military officials.

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al-Qasbi, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sherif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Taher Al-Masri and other officials accompanied King Hussein on the visit.

Upon departure from the Soviet Union, their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were accorded an official farewell ceremony, and were seen off by President and Mrs Andrei Gromyko.

King Hussein heads the Jordanian side during talks with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev

Weapons in Gulf

Continued from page 12

Since 1985 China has sold more than \$1 billion worth of arms to Iran each year, much of it sent via North Korea.

Moving closer to Iran recently in economic relations, the Soviet Union is expected to boost arms sales to Tehran, in exchange for greater Soviet access to energy resources.

Analysts say those who question the logic behind Israel's sales of military goods to Iran, a country openly dedicated to its destruction, should bear in mind the Realpolitik factor.

The Gulf war and its absorption of a vast volume of Islamic cash and energy is a great boon to Israel, which is only too willing to keep the war going.

Apart from open large-volume sales by the Soviet Union and France to Iraq, many sales take place in what arms dealers call the "grey markets," which include terrorist procurement channels.

Britain has been active in the

Gulf weapons trade, with the Ministry of Defence's Defence Export Services Organization, the Defence Manufacturers Association and International Military Services in London keeping links open.

Iraqis have been prominent visitors to both British Army and Royal Navy equipment exhibitions.

A recent visitor was Iraq's director of armaments and supplies, Major-General Ibrahim Hammadi, accompanied by the director of military computer applications, Major-General Qahtan Al Azzawi.

British firms involved in supplying Iran include John Laing and George Wimpey, who helped build the Isfahan military complex, Rolls-Royce, British Hovercraft Corporation, Rover, Alvis, Plessey and Nobel Explosives.

Much of the Iranian purchasing in Britain has been directed from the National Iranian Oil Corporation offices in London's Victoria Street. There, around 50 Iranian military officers used London to

arrange 70 per cent of the country's arms procurement, according to the CAAT.

Although the British government closed down this unofficial arms nexus in September in response to attacks on shipping in the Gulf, reports reaching the CAAT suggest that trading continues.

The suspicion is that actual dealing is done not by arms procurement officers but by oil corporation officers who were permitted to remain.

According to the CAAT, chemical weapons have been supplied to Gulf combatants by Belgium, Switzerland, the United States and West Germany.

Said French arms expert Marc Ouziel, "The world arms trading environment has been like a supermarket for both Iran and Iraq. I cannot really see this declining, for all the talk of embargoes. After all, the back door will always be ajar."

Dennis Chaplin and Stephanie Willand specialize in military and defence issues.

THANKS FOR CONDOLENCES

We, the Glukmann and Karabashi families, would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the friends and colleagues who sent their kind condolences and expressions of sympathy on the recent death of our beloved Jean-Claude.

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24 DECEMBER 1987

Royal message

His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a letter to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the occasion of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The letter, which was conveyed by Royal Court Chief Marwan, also dealt with continuous coordination between the two countries in Arab affairs and in a call on world countries to stop the Israeli violence against Arab citizens in the Arab-occupied territories.

Queen opens architectural exhibition

Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday opened an exhibition entitled "Mamluk Architecture of Jerusalem" at the National Gallery in Jordan.

The exhibition was organized by the Royal Society of Fine Arts and the British Council in co-operation with the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

The exhibition follows the publication of a book on Mamluk Jerusalem which is a study of Mamluk architecture in Jerusalem.

Prince Hassan receives Saudi Crown Prince

His Royal Highness the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz left Amman Tuesday after a visit to Jordan during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

During the meeting, their Royal Highnesses discussed the current Arab issues and the latest developments on both the Islamic and Arab arenas.

Both the Princes expressed their satisfaction with the positive characteristics of inter-Arab relations, and the determination of His Majesty King Hussein and King Abd Ben Abdel Aziz to continue working towards unifying the Arab world.

Discussions also dealt with the situation in the occupied Arab lands which is the result of the aggressive actions of the Israeli occupation authorities the Arab population courageously resisting them.

Prince receives Sheikh Al-Shuraqi

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received Sheikh Saleh Al Shuraqi, deputy governor and commander of the defence forces and director of civil aviation of the emirate of Fujaira in the United Arab Emirates. The deputy governor conveyed greetings from the Fujaira ruler to His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan.

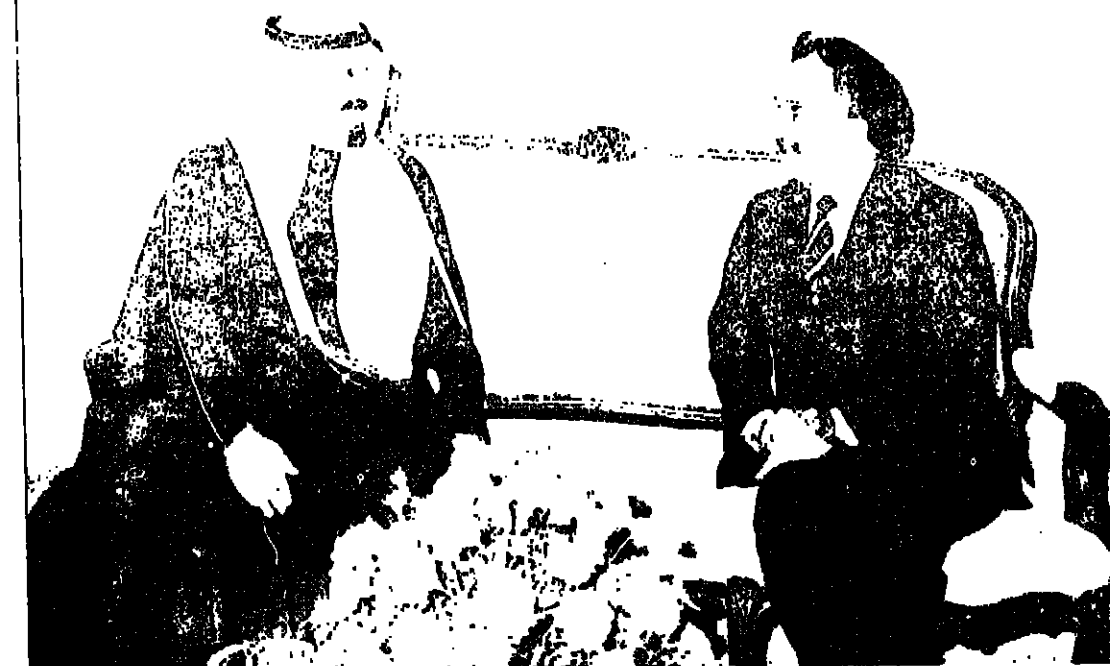
Meeting on occupied lands

Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Mr. Marwan Dudin said the Jordanian Government welcomes any meeting on the Muslim Arab levels to discuss the serious developments in the occupied city of Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied land. He stressed the necessity of joint religious work to counter the barbaric Israeli aggressions against the defenceless Arab citizens under occupation.

The minister's statement came after His Majesty King Hassan of Morocco called for a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee to discuss the situation in the occupied territories.

Environmental Health activities meetings open

Health Minister Zaid Hanzah



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan discusses with the Saudi Crown Prince the latest developments in the region.

Sunday reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to support the Amman-based regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities.

Addressing the opening session of a meeting to discuss future progress, the minister said that the centre's activities especially those pertaining to sanitation, water, disposal of waste and preventing pollution are part of the primary health care which the ministry is trying to ensure for all citizens by the year 2000.

ISC President condemns Israeli practices in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM President of the Islamic Supreme Coun-

cil (ISC) in Jerusalem, Mr Sa'ad Addin Al-Alami, issued a statement in which he condemned the Israeli authorities practices in the occupied lands, and called on all "peace-loving people" to demand a stop to these barbaric practices by the Israeli occupation authorities.

He said that what is happening in the occupied lands "is to be likened only to the actions of the apartheid regime in South Africa, stating that never in history have any occupation authorities registered the like of these practices.

Mr. Al-Alami demanded that "the decision-makers in Israel and the whole world act to end the tragic conditions which have resulted from the provocative step" which Sharon has taken by deciding to reside in the Arab city of Jerusalem.

"It is as if Sharon wants to declare to everybody his total disregard for the people... of the city of peace and faith..." I declare that this provocative act is rejected by the Islamic Supreme Council, all Arabs and Muslims, and believers and lovers of peace here and abroad," said the president of the ISC.

He referred to the Israeli government measures to limit the concession of the Jerusalem Electricity Company as an aggression against the right of the company and its employees.

Mr Al-Alami also voiced the ISC's condemnation of the Israeli attack against the church in the Prophets' Street in West Jerusalem, and declared the ISC's support for the church. "The Council condemns any aggression on any holy shrine" he said.

New home for the Star and Ad-Dustour

THE AD-DUSTOUR and Jerusalem Star newspapers Monday celebrated the opening of their new buildings by giving a grand reception which was attended by a number of invitees from both the governmental and private sectors.

The invitees toured the various sections of the newspapers and viewed the most up-to-date equipment used by the papers and the commercial section which prints books, magazines, and other publications.

The building, located on the University Road, was designed to accommodate newspapers and is capable of coping up with any future expansion.

Christmas Celebrations cancelled

AMMAN (AP) — Christian church leaders in Jordan said Tuesday they have cancelled all Christmas activities except for worship services in solidarity with Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"How can we celebrate and be happy if our people are suffering the Israeli violence?" said the Reverend Manuel Sawalha, head of the Roman Catholic parish in Amman.

He confirmed reports that the leaders of all major Christian denominations in the country had agreed to cancel all celebrations other than worship services. The action by Jordanian church leaders follows an announcement that Palestinian leaders had cancelled a traditional Christmas Eve parade and party in Bethlehem, birthplace of Jesus.

"In this peaceful season, Christmas time, we feel the agony and pain of our people in the holy land who are fighting for their Arab identity, and to free themselves from the Israeli occupation," said the statement issued by the Jordanian church leaders.

The Spanish Exhibition

Building of the Greater Amman Headquarters on Prince Muhammad Street, Telephone No 632022

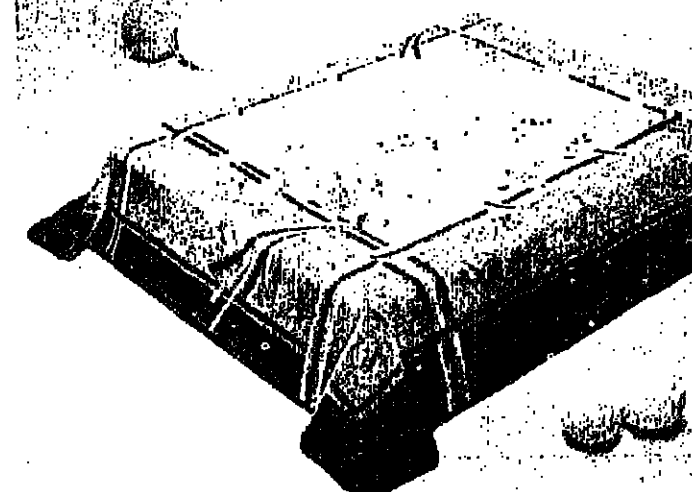
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THE JERUSALEM STAR 7

Basle '1988' events

By Swiss Industries
Fair Basle
Special to The Star

1988 PROMISES to be another extremely varied and interesting year in Basle's calendar of fairs and congresses. In addition to traditional events, the congress sector in particular lists some functions that are either new or at least new to Basle, which prove that the extensive Basle fairs and congress facilities are enjoying ever-growing popularity, both at home and abroad.

This is hardly surprising since Basle is an ideal venue for fairs and congresses with a host of special features, for example:

- Its central position in the heart of the large European market;
- The direct and favourable traffic connections, making short trips out of long distances;
- The purchasing power of the demanding Swiss home market;
- The services of a country that is open to the world and that trades without obstructive barriers;
- Its significance as an industrial location, mainly of the chemical industry, and as a financial and banking centre, as the focal point of insurances and transport, as well as other important branches of industry;
- The fact that its friendly inhabitants are multilingual, thus making contacts easier and avoiding difficulties in understanding;
- The punctuality and comfort of its public transport, the typically Swiss reliability of its postal, telephone and telex services;
- The atmosphere of a historic and compact city with some thirty museums, several theatres, nightclubs, numerous cinemas, concert halls, its zoological gardens, first-class hotels and restaurants, etc. All in all, facilities that few cities can match and that can also make an enjoyable stay out of a successful visit to one of our events.

Geographic location
At the junction of the three

countries: Germany-France/Switzerland. Intersection of European roads and railways in both north-south and west-east directions. Direct access to the European motorway network. International airport (15 minutes drive to the Fair). The only inland port in Switzerland.

History

Congress and fair city since the Middle Ages: 1431-1449 Synod. 1471 imperial patent to hold fairs. Since that year the Basle Autumn Fair has been held without interruption. 1916 foundation of the Swiss Industries Fair. The spring Fair (Swiss Industries Fair) has been held since 1917.

Fair grounds

Exhibition and congress grounds situated in a central location, a few minutes' walk from the stations, the cultural and business centre, from the Rhine and from the motorway.

Exhibition area

Over 204,000 square metres, 90 per cent in 38 modern halls with escalators, lifts, central heating and air conditioning; connections for light and power, water and gas; cranes, lifting and transport installations for exhibits of all sizes and weights; own railway sidings.

Field

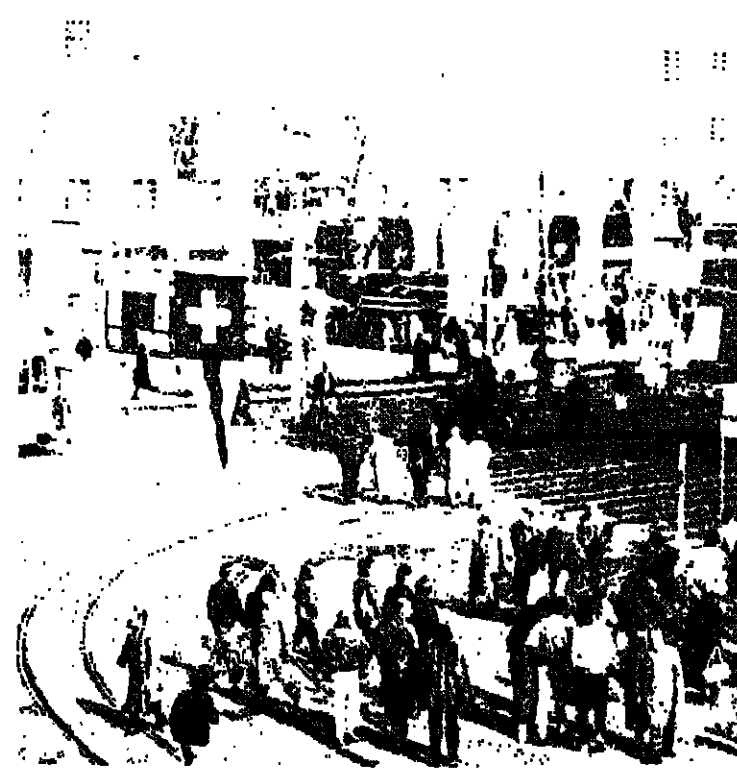
For exhibitors, visitors, congress organizers and participants: reception service, accommodation service, full congress management, information and press service, electronic visitor information system (new), catalogue, fair customs office, bank and post office, rail and air ticket desk, car rental; many efficiently run cafes and restaurants throughout the fairground.

Multi-storey car park

1800 covered parking spaces situated adjacent to the exhibition and congress grounds.

World trade center club of Switzerland

On payment of a modest membership fee: club rooms, conference



Visitors swarming the city square at Basle's exhibition

ence rooms, restaurant and bar, foreign newspapers, telephone, telex and other communication facilities, all trade services.

Palette of trade fairs held
Over 40 regularly held fairs. Jan. 16-17

- International Dog Show Jan. 21-23
- COGENE-Symposium 88 International Congress on Genetics Jan. 29-30
- European Coin Convention Fair 88 17th International Coin Fair Basle Feb. 2-6
- Didacta 88 International Education and Training Exhibition Feb. 11-12
- Calcium Antagonist in Hypertension 25 Anniversary Inter-

national Symposium

March 5-14

• 72nd Swiss Industries Fair March 5-14

• Natura 88 9th Exhibition for Healthy living April 9-17

• 29th Art and Antiques Fair of Switzerland April 14-21

• Basle 88 16th European for Healthy Living May 5-7

• 58th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society of Internal Medicine May 26

• Pro Aqua-Pro Vita-Environmental Protection Day 1988 June 2-4

• 18th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Association for Small Animals Medicine

June 15-20

• Art 1988 1988 International Fair (20th Century Art) Aug. 15-18

• 15th International Symposium on Bioactive Materials Aug. 29-31

• ISCRE 10 10th International Symposium on Chemical Reaction Engineering Sept. 3-5

• Interferex 88 15th International Trade Fair for Hardware, Tools and Household Goods Sept. 6-10

• Swissdata 88 The Swiss Exhibition for Information Processing Sept. 6-10

• Fabritec 88 3rd International Trade Fair for Fabrication and Installation in Electronics and Microtechnics (Sama) Sept. 8-9

• Videotex-Forum 88 Sept. 8-11

• 5th Basle Exhibition of Second-hand Cars 88 Oct. 18-22

• Swisstech 88 4th Trade Fair for Subcontracting and Technical Industrial Supplies Oct. 29-Nov. 13

• 518th Basle Autumn Fair The oldest and largest fair in Switzerland Oct. 29-Nov. 7

• The Basle Autumn Market Commercial Fair with Special Displays Oct. 29-Nov. 7

• Snow 88 The Show for Sports, Winter and Recreation Oct. 29-Nov. 7

• 15th Basle Wine Fair Oct. 31-Nov. 4

• SUAE Autumn Conference 88 Annual Conference of the Association of Sperry Computer Users Nov. 5-6

• 13th Basle Collectors' Exchange Nov. 10-13

• Basel Psi-Days 88 8th International Congress on Interdisciplinary Discussion of Border Area Problems of Science Nov. 17-18

• 4th International Hightech-Forum Basel Nov. 22-30

• IFM 88 7th International Fair for Material Handling Storage Automation-Robotics Dec. 12-16

• 28th Seminar of the UER for Adult Education

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at
the Star

We hope you enjoyed our special
Christmas issue last week, 17
December.



Christmas tree at the
Marriott this year

Asia/Pacific: a region made for space

SINGAPORE (Star) — In size and population, the Asia/Pacific region dominates the planet, as does its potential for economic growth. Oceans, mountain ranges and forests impede economic activity in the region and yet contain enormous riches.

To explore, assess and exploit the region's economic potential, and to overcome natural obstacles by terrestrial means alone is enormously expensive and sometimes impossible.

The use of space opens up unexplored possibilities for the Asia/Pacific region, aiding activities as diverse as communications, pollution control, mineral prospecting and saving ships in distress.

An example of what space technology makes possible can be found in Indonesia. This enormous archipelago, stretching over a distance as great as that between Paris and New York, has been united by the Palapa series of communications satellites, providing ultra-modern telephone, TV and radio links — at a tiny fraction of the time and cost needed to do the same job with terrestrial relays.

The needs of the Asia/Pacific region are a major force driving the development of civil space

technology. Indeed, several countries in the region (including Australia, China, India and Japan) have space-related industries of their own and are becoming increasingly important players on the world space stage.

Satellites and Space Markets for Asia/Pacific: a presentation to address real needs

Bringing together users and suppliers, Satellites and Space Markets for Asia/Pacific will be a crucial even for everyone interested in this most important market.

Organized by Geneva-based Space Markets magazine and Cahners Exposition Group, the presentation will concentrate on the current and medium-term needs of the region and how space technology can satisfy them.

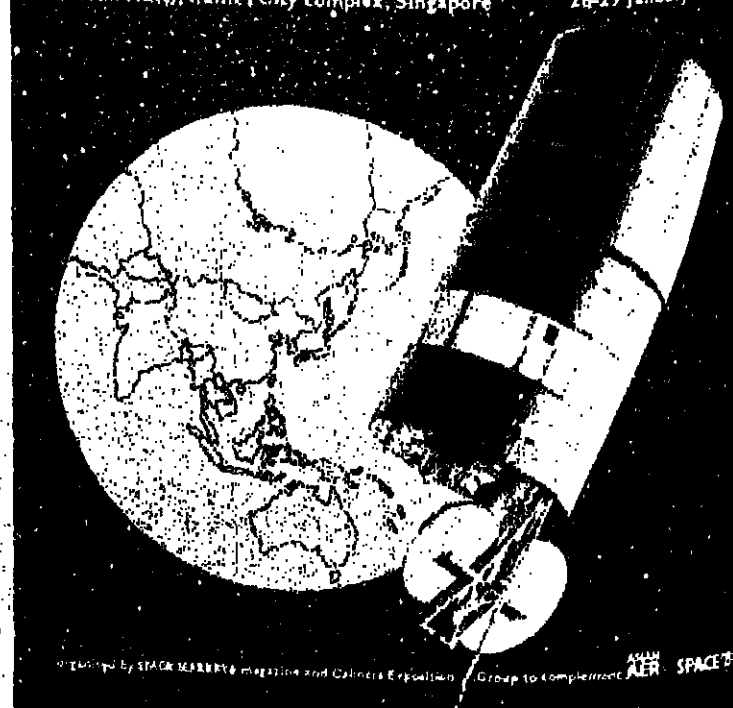
Satellites and Space Markets for Asia/Pacific will not be an academic conference appealing only to technological specialists: it will be a lively, market-oriented presentation designed to give businessmen and public officials the information they need to decide their future investments in space technology.

The meeting will be invaluable to all in government and industry who are concerned with the civil uses of space. While topics have been chosen to reflect the Asia/Pacific region's special requirements, they have worldwide relevance and the meeting will also be of great value to delegates coming from outside the region.

Satellites and Space Markets for Asia/Pacific is timed to coincide with the fourth Asian Aerospace Show, being held in Singapore from 27-31 January. Managed by Cahners, the show is the region's only regular aerospace trade exhibition and has grown in stature over the years to become an indispensable event for everyone interested in the Asia/Pacific market.

This year, a special emphasis is being placed on space activities, and exhibitors include well known space industry names like: Aeritalia, Aerospaziale, Allied Signal, Beech, British Aerospace, Boeing, China Precision Machinery Export-Import Corporation, General Dynamics, Grumman, Hawker Pacific, Honeywell Aerospace & Defense, Inmarsat, Litton Industries, Lockheed Corp International, Martin Marietta, MBB, McDonnell Douglas, NEC Corp, Perkin Elmer, Rockwell Collins, SAFT, Sundstrand and System Donner.

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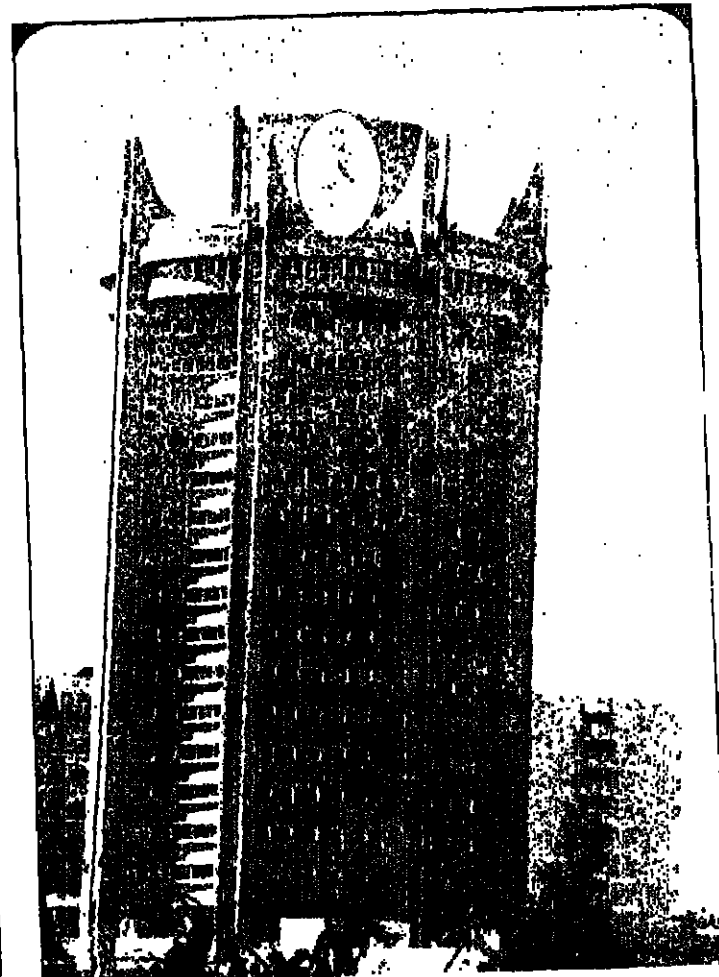
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THE JERUSALEM STAR 9

Uprising and clamp down

ISRAELI SOLDIERS arrested hundreds of Palestinians in a sweep through towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza on Wednesday to break one of the bloodiest waves of anti-Israeli rioting since the areas were occupied 20 years ago.

Defying US and UN protests against excessive measures, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the army was ordered to "shoot to hit" the leaders of demonstrations gone out of control, and to expel or imprison ringleaders without trial.

Violence appeared to be waning, as rainstorms helped dampen the troubles. Scattered stone-throwing and fire-burning incidents were reported, but Palestinian and Israeli military sources reported no major clashes in one of the quietest days in two weeks.

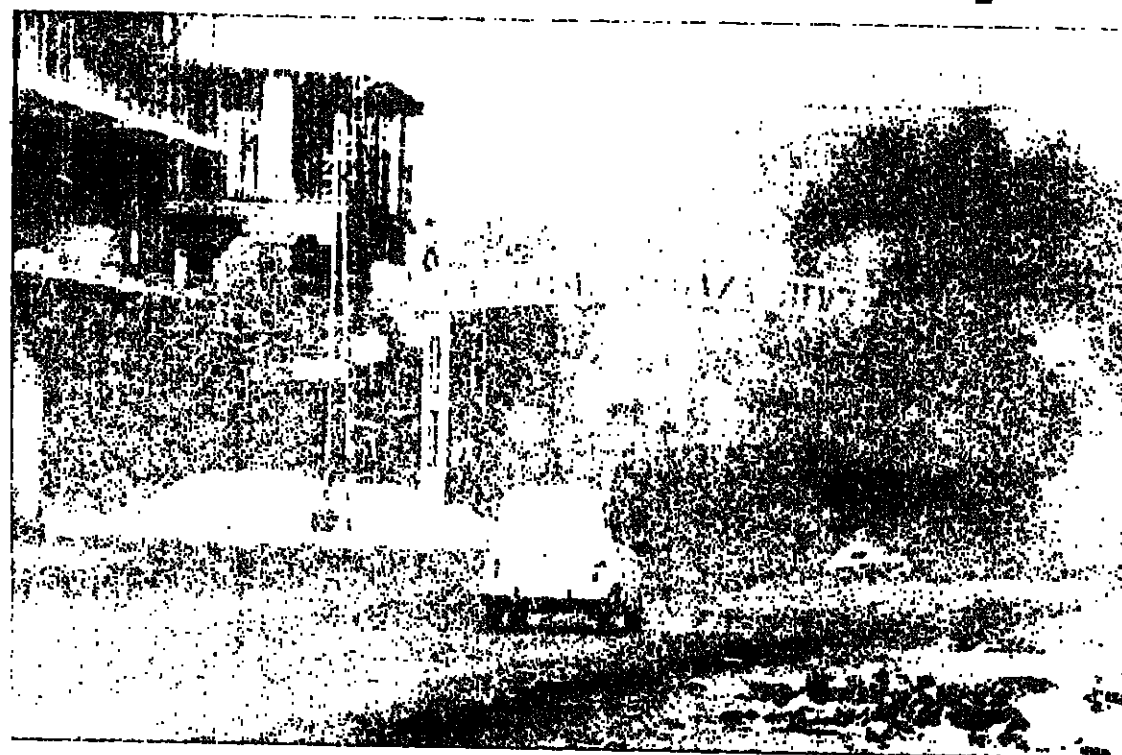
A government official said most Arab laborers returned to jobs in Israel and Arab shops ended a commercial strike. "The trend of calm that began yesterday was strengthened today," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Reporting to parliament, Rabin said 21 Palestinians had been killed and 158 wounded in the clashes. He said 31 Israeli soldiers and 19 civilians were wounded.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors events in the West Bank and Gaza, put the number of Arab dead at 25. The news service said it had reports of more than 350 arrests in the last two days, bringing the total number of detainees to 1,770. It said its figures were compiled from the families of those arrested.

Israeli military and government sources confirmed the arrests, but declined to give figures. The Palestinians said Israeli forces swept into the villages after midnight to round up suspects at an hour when resistance is minimal.

Newspapers reported that Israel was building two detention centers, apparently like the tent cities which housed thousands of prisoners during Israel's war in Lebanon. The film national news agency said one detention camp was opened Wednesday near the Palestinian city of Hebron.



The welcome has a bitter irony

On the diplomatic front, Israel clashed with the United States, rejecting US criticism of its counter-measures and faulting the US administration for refusing to veto a UN Security Council condemnation of Israel's actions on Tuesday.

"Israel rejects any attempts to claim that those who disturb the peace and commit acts of violence should be equated with the responsible authorities whose efforts are directed to the maintenance of order and normality," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

A government statement defended Israel's actions in dealing with Arab rioters and said Israel was doing its utmost to maintain order in the area "while displaying the highest degree of self-restraint."

The protest also referred to statements by US President Ronald Reagan and the US State Department expressing concern over the deteriorating situation in the territories.

It warned Washington against adopting positions "that could create unnecessary obstacles to Israel's efforts to restore calm and order."



Even the wounded remain defiant

"The government of Israel regrets and takes issue with the American position as expressed in the last 24 hours both in verbal statements and the abstention of the US delegation in the vote of the UN Security Council," said a statement issued by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ehud Gol.

"There is no foundation or justification for blaming Israel about the recent serious and unfortunate events" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it said. On Tuesday, the UN Security Council voted 14-0 to adopt a resolution "strongly deploring" Israel's policies and practices during the past two weeks of disturbances in the territories, in which at least 22 Arabs have been killed by Israeli gunfire.

In a move seen as a victory by Arab diplomats, the United States, a staunch ally of Israel, allowed the resolution to go through by abstaining.

Adding to Israel's discomfort, President Reagan also issued a statement criticizing Israeli actions in the territories. He said the violence was regrettable but there had been "provocation on both sides."

In expressing its displeasure with the US statements, the Israeli protest warned that criticism of army policy in the territories might further ignite the cycle of violence.

"Israel hopes that the United States, a true friend of Israel... will be particularly careful not to adopt positions which might be interpreted as support for extremist elements who encourage violence," the statement said.

A ministry official said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would transmit the essence of the protest to US Ambassador Thomas Pickering in a regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday.

The official would not elaborate on whether the United States had made specific requests for Israel to change its policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, namely to refrain from using live gunfire to disperse rioters.

"We are conducting continuous diplomatic exchanges, but I will not reveal their content," he said.

The Israeli protest came as defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin staunchly defended Israeli policy in the territories, including the use of live gunfire in cases where troops perceived themselves in danger.

"I know that the description of what is going on in the occupied territories, the way it is interpreted in the media, is not helping the image of Israel in the world," said Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "But I am convinced that above and beyond the temporary problem of our image, the supreme responsibility of our government is to fight the violence in the territories and to use all the means at our disposal to do that. We will do that and we will succeed."

Rabin's speech, interrupted by some of the five Arab lawmakers as well as extreme right-wing legislators, began a day-long parliament debate on the riots.

Rabin said the army would respond with massive force to put down demonstrations and close or curfew trouble spots. He defended the army's widely criticized practice of using marksmen with high-powered .22 caliber rifles to single out leaders of violent protests.

"As defence minister, I have responsibility for the lives and safety of the soldiers and border police,"



Police arrest a demonstrator

and it is my duty to give them the means to protect themselves... to hurt those out to hurt them," Rabin said.

Meanwhile Egypt said Wednesday that President Hosni Mubarak appealed to US President Ronald Reagan not to veto a UN Security Council resolution deploring Israeli military action against Palestinians in occupied Arab lands.

A Foreign Ministry official told reporters Mubarak made the appeal in a telephone call to Reagan on Tuesday, hours before the 16-member council passed the resolution by a 14-0 vote. The United States abstained.

The official, who refused to be named under ministry rules, suggested in his statement that Mubarak's plea was instrumental in avoiding a US veto in the United Nations that would have killed the measure.

"The US delegate to the Security Council abstained instead of using the veto, and thus passage of the resolution became possible."

The Egyptian government, through various officials, has issued seven statements condemning Israeli actions.

The security council resolution was a compromise that, at Washington's behest, avoided outright condemnation of Israel. It "strongly deplores" Israel's practices such as opening fire on "defenseless Palestinian civilians" and accuses the Jewish state of violating human rights of Palestinians in the two territories.

Butros Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, welcomed the resolution in remarks to reporters after conferring on the West Bank and Gaza with US Ambassador Frank G. Wisner.

"The importance of the resolution lies in its reference to the primary reason for the deteriorating

situation in the occupied Arab lands, namely the continuation of Israel's occupation," Ghali said.

Another important point, he added, is the resolution's "call for the achievement of an overall and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

He said, "Egypt hopes Israel will bow to the will of the international community, halt forthwith its aggressive actions against the Palestinian inhabitants... and respect the right of the Palestinians to self-determination."

Meanwhile Israel has come under a hail of international criticism

for its policy in the territories, especially the use of live gunfire to quell protests.

On Tuesday, US State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley echoed the White House rebuke of Israel's "harsh security measures" and said the violence demonstrates the need for a common commitment by all parties to deal with the underlying problem.

"The current situation - absence of progress in the peace process - is not viable," she said. "Time is not working in favour of a settlement people must."

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said President Ronald Reagan's administration was trying to end the two-week-old violence through diplomatic talks with representatives of Israel, Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization. He declined to name the countries or the PLO leaders.

"We view the continuing violence with serious concern," Fitzwater said in a statement to reporters. "It is time for both sides to step back from confrontation before there are more tragic casualties."

"Both sides share a responsibility for this violence," he continued,

"demonstrations and riots on one side and harsh security measures and excessive use of live ammunition on the other cannot substitute for a genuine dialogue."

Fitzwater said Israel's "continuing occupation is exacting a toll on the 1.5 million Palestinians in the territories, and on Israel as well." He said the occupation's effects "also damage the self-respect and world opinion of the Israeli people."

In the diplomatic overtures, administration officials "have asked for restraint in the use of live ammunition," Fitzwater said.

Despite the US involvement, he acknowledged, "the tensions have not lessened," and he added, "it becomes more serious all the time. We simply felt it was valuable to reiterate our position."

"We are actively engaged in diplomatic discussions on this matter. We are reviewing it with a number of officials in the area... We are hopeful that some change can come about, but I am just not at liberty to discuss the specifics," Fitzwater added when questioned about what measures the US officials are trying to achieve.

The army said Wednesday that because of rioting and incitement soldiers placed cement-filled barrels and barbed wire at the entrance to the Dheisheh Refugee Camp near Bethlehem to keep out trucks and cars.

Army radio said coils of barbed wire blocked entrances to keep the 50,000 residents from leaving or entering the Jabaliya Refugee Camp in Gaza, where 17-year-old Khalid Ahmadyed was killed Tuesday.

The radio said there were scattered reports of fire burning in Khan Younis.

The Arab-run Palestine Press Service said a demonstration was reported at the Asker Refugee Camp near Nablus, where stone throwers smashed the windshields of two Israeli cars.



Children watch as their older brothers are beaten

Protesters block roads with burning tires

Soldiers raid homes in Gaza City

After the summit

Signs of a new Iran-Soviet tie

Iran and the Soviet Union are negotiating a revision of their 1921 treaty that allows Moscow to intervene in the Islamic Republic in the event of a third party attack. But the shifts in regional power politics may produce unpredictable results.

By M.B. Naqvi
Special to The Star

EXACTLY HOW Iran figured in the Washington summit between President Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev may never be revealed in public, but there are strong hints of a shift in Iran-Soviet relations.

For example, what Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told the Tokyo newspaper Asahi Shimbun, before the summit got under way, ought to figure in all new strategic, tactical or political considerations related to the Gulf.

In the interview, Rafsanjani strongly indicated that a new mutual security treaty is being negotiated between Tehran and Moscow to replace the 1921 agreement which entitles the Soviet Union, during an emergency created by a third country's invasion of Iranian territory, to send its troops into northern Iran.

Of course, the treaty can be redrafted either way to deprive the Soviet Union of such an opportunity or put its relationship with Tehran on a more secure footing. The treaty has always been a sore point, and often denounced and equated with the Shah's agreements with the United States for its adverse effect on Iranian sovereignty.

But, because Rafsanjani also hinted at closer economic co-operation between Iran and the Soviet Union, it seems unlikely that the new negotiations will be a setback to Moscow.

In any case, when Rafsanjani made the remarks, he had other things on his mind. The interview was primarily a riposte to the Arab summit in Amman, as well as Western moves that Iran saw as designed to isolate the Islamic Republic.

An Iran-Soviet rapprochement has never been underrated, but it becomes all the more important after

the Washington talks and while the two superpowers have units of their nuclear-armed navies in the Gulf and the waters nearby.

The Iraq-Iran War is in a dangerous and desperate phase; tension is high not only on the military front but also on the economic one, as Iran and the rest of OPEC continue to argue bitterly over the price and production levels of oil.

The US thinking is still predicated on the power vacuum left by British departure from the Gulf in the 1960's. For the Pentagon, the biggest danger still comes from the Soviet Union, not Iran, because Moscow is seen to be intent on increasing its influence in the area — largely by default. This idea has been recurrent in the US defence establishment since the fall of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in 1979.

True, the war has superimposed other images over this stark strategic picture, but the Soviet role or intentions in the area remain an overriding concern of Washington, as indeed the growing US presence worries Moscow.

How this mutual suspicion may have been resolved, or at least tackled, in Washington, remains to be clear. But the Soviet role in the area does need to be put in a better perspective.

The Kremlin, although having a treaty relationship with Baghdad, hitherto has managed to abide by its obligations to Iraq without much enthusiasm, or real or active hostility towards Iran.

The West, on the other hand, always has had mixed feelings about the treaty, or US ties with Iraq would not be as close as they are today.

But what of Iran? As ever, US intentions toward Iran remain ambivalent too. The Iran-Contra affair, followed by the buildup of forces in the Gulf, is a case in point.



Rafsanjani has indicated that a new mutual security treaty is being negotiated between Tehran and Moscow.

The Americans developed an intense dislike for Iran's theocratic regime following the hostage affair, but it was Iran's aim of exporting its Islamic revolution which made it a bete noir of the Reagan administration.

Although pro-Israeli Americans, legislators and officials alike, regard Iraq as a more immediate threat and hold Iran to be worth Lebanon, the car-bombing of the US installations in Beirut and humiliation that followed the Iran-Contra scandal all have served to confirm Iran as America's chief foe in the region. But whether that has decided the direction of Iran-US relations in the longer term remains to be seen.

Iran is not alone in refusing to accept the postulates of Western Strategy; other rulers in the area, who are outwardly seen as pro-Western reflect similar attitudes. In the event, much of regional developments fail to conform to Western, geopolitical terms.

Even the Soviets, who registered their naval presence in the Gulf in conformity with what was expected of them, refuse to behave like a proper enemy — in as much as they deny the intent.

It's hardly surprising, therefore,

to see a certain degree of bonhomie between the commanders of the Soviet and Western naval units.

The West has two supreme objectives in the region: free flow of oil through the Gulf and maintenance of social and political status quo on the southern littoral. The Soviets do not play the expected adversary's role on both counts. Iran does seem to want to destabilize Gulf governments, but it is vitally interested, too, in the free flow of oil.

The Soviet Union is busy reassuring the Gulf governments that it has no interest in promoting instability in their states. Soviet priorities appear to favour peace above all else. All Moscow seems to want, at this stage, is a share in peace-keeping arrangements.

But if it is seen to be promoting friendship with Tehran, with the latter's known hostility to certain quarters, can Moscow still command the safe confidence? That seems in doubt.

The West's difficulties are compounded by Arab sensitivities. Most Arabs until recently were extremely reluctant to permit any Western military presence onshore. The Gulf Co-operation Council did not tire of repeating that Gulf security was a local responsibility and advised the superpowers to keep away.

That rhetoric has created its own compulsions, and a certain xenophobia. It's been quite a job for the West to convince recipients that its presence is performing a different function, i.e. containing Iran which is as much a threat to the United States as it is to the Arab states.

The radical Arab opinion still chafes against a nuclearization of the Gulf as well as potent risks in a localized super-power rivalry. But whether such a pronounced display of Western support to an "Arab cause" will soften the radicals remains to be seen.

Be that as it may, the US appears to have cast itself into the mold of an implacable enemy of Iran, as appearances go, and that may jeopardize the West's long-term interests in the Gulf.

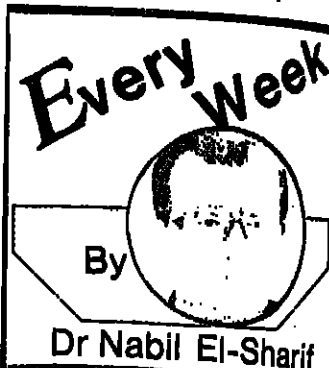
Already, the American stance has given the Soviet Union an attractive opening in Iran. And since not all on the Arab side are convinced that the Western presence is wholly in the Arab interest, Moscow has been able to make headway in the emirates as well.

The Iranians have not gone overboard in their dealings with Moscow. While remaining true in public to its self-avowed "Neither East nor West" policy, Tehran is engaged in extensive co-operation with Moscow on projects vital to its war effort, such as converting the IGAT 1 gas pipeline to crude.

The Iranians are also active in the other direction: despite their anti-American rhetoric, they have cultivated close allies of America. They are certainly moving in the Soviet direction, but in carefully measured steps, leaving a line of retreat open. The message seems to be that they would retrace if offered an alternative.

But, just as the West seems hemmed in by the abandonment of its neutrality in the Gulf, Moscow's overture to Tehran is not without risks. It can work both ways, with unpredictable and uncontrollable results.

Continued on Page 6



Under a racist banner

IT SEEMS as if Israeli strategists were taken by surprise at the size, intensity and comprehensiveness of the Arab strike which was observed all over Palestine last Monday. They were stunned especially because the Arab towns and villages in the Palestinian areas occupied since 1948 put up a strong show of solidarity with the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza.

The comprehensive response to that strike in the Arab towns and villages in Israel is important not only because it gives the Arab revolt in the West Bank and Gaza the much needed momentum, but also because it highlights the failure of Israel's policies over the past 40 years.

Israel, as it has been proved during the comprehensive Arab strike, has not been able to assimilate its Arab inhabitants in its socio-political structure. The so-called Israeli Arabs, like the blacks of South Africa, live as second-class citizens in their homeland. They are discriminated against in all aspects, and are forced to accept miserable living conditions.

The plight of the (Israeli-Arabs) should be expected in a state that announces itself as a Jewish state. By definition, this state cannot offer people of other religions or national backgrounds the same services or even protection under the law. Israel's (Defence) minister Rabin was clear in threatening the Arab inhabitants of Israel in the same tone of shamelessness that he used in talking to the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza. To him and to other Zionist leaders, an Arab is an Arab whether he lives in Heifa and Acre or in Hebron and Nablus. And if some Arabs were misled into believing otherwise, let them wake up to this naked reality before it is too late.

The Arab comprehensive strike of last Monday also says something else that should be absorbed by the whole world: "If Israel still treats the Arabs under its administration for 40 years as (second-class) citizens, how could anybody accept the twisted Israeli myth of (co-existence) among Arab and Jews under the racist Zionist banner? Arabs and Jews lived together in the past, and they can live together in the future. If Zionism as a racist ideology is blotted out and thrown into eternal oblivion once and for all.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

1988 budget A new promise



AMMAN (Star) — Chaired by Mr. Musa Abu-Aragheb, the Lower House of Parliament's "Financial Committee" was formed to study and discuss the 1988 budget's draft law and issue its recommendations, which were delivered to the Committee's reporter Mr. Jamal Obaidat, member of Parliament, on Saturday 19 December 1987.

The Committee, endorsing the budget law for 1988, addressed the house of parliament on such occasion after it had conducted the necessary analysis on the budgetary process upon which the "1988 budget" was to be enacted as a law for the year to come.

In reviewing the budget, the Committee stated the following positive indicators about the Jordanian economy: 1) the country has achieved moderate growth rates, reaching a rate of 3 per cent in the SNP for 1987; 2) the Jordan Dinar has shown a stable position against other world currencies; 3) bank deposits have hit a record high during 1987 and trading activities in Amman Financial Market rose as well, thus reflecting a positive effect on credit facilities and the monetary cycle which also increased during 1987; 4) the deficit in the trade balance has for its fourth year decreased during 1987; 5) the local prices of commodities and services have settled, whereas escalation in the cost of living was reported; and 6) Jordan's endeavours to meet its commitment and ensure the credibility of the Jordanian economy were highly successful during 1987.

The Committee maintained that the budget was similar in form and characteristic to the previous budgets, except that total revenues and expenditures increased for 1988. With total allocations amounting to JD 1075.4 million, the increase over 1987 reaches 6.6 per cent. Total revenues, as well, are appropriated at JD 610.9 million, showing an increase of 11.1 per cent over the local revenue appropriations for 1987. Current expenditures, showing an increase by 3.2 per cent over 1987 will be covered by local revenues reaching a 98 per cent ratio as compared with 91 per cent for 1987.

In its assessment of the social and economic achievements, the Committee attributed the above observations, on the budget's draft law, to the following explanations: 1) that the volume of foreign payments and the size of the public debt and its service ratio place a burden on the treasury should expenditures continue to increase while control measures and local revenues are not introduced and increased respectively; 2) the "1988 budget" shows that the cost of servicing public debt amounts to JD 177,000,000, compared with JD 108,000,000 for 1987's budget, thus a warning signal is observed with regard to such account should be compared its effect on the size of the Jordanian budget and the nature of its revenues.

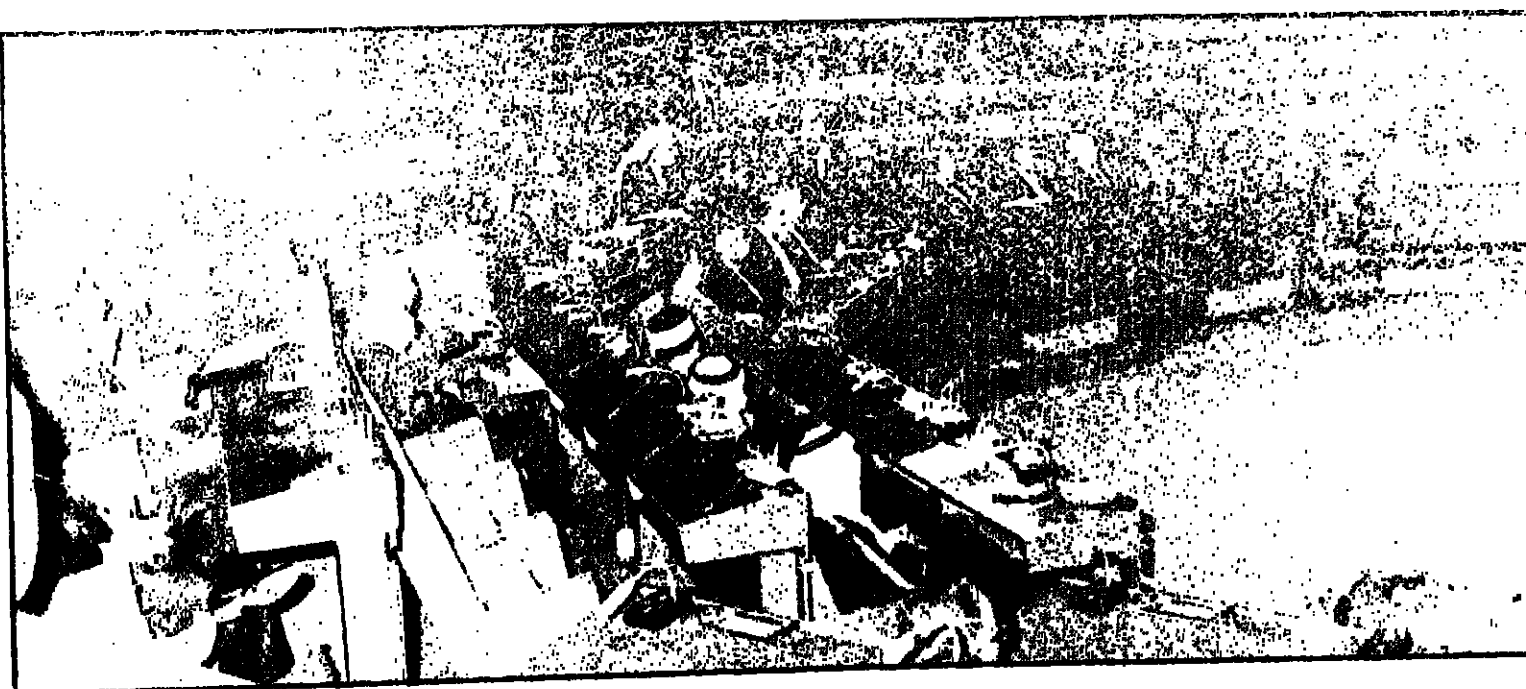
At the Upper House of Parliament's session, on Sunday 20 December 1987, Mr. Ahmad Al-Tarawneh, the Legal Committee's reporter, delivered the Committee's resolutions to the Upper House, which have been endorsed as stipulated by the Committee's re-

AMMAN (Star) — Commenting on the Committee's reports and deputies' remarks Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rifal praised the deep sense of responsibility and true co-operation which characterized the discussion of the "Financial Committee" with the Finance Minister and high-ranking officials. He said such method is followed by all members of the government, which shares with both the executive and legislative bodies the shouldering of national responsibilities in accordance with the humane constitution and in line with the principles set by His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Rifal thanked those Arab countries which fulfilled their

financial commitments to Jordan, adding that the 1988 Budget reflected Jordan's hopes and ambitions for the forthcoming year. "The government," he said, "agreed to the financial committee's view that the major part of the national economy's infrastructure had been completed, and it is high time for launching highly lucrative enterprises."

Mr. Rifal stressed the importance of the private sector's role in building the national economy. He said: "The government is giving priority to increasing local production and is taking a series of steps to reach this goal."



port: 1) a draft law amendment to the law of Social and Economic Corp for Jordanian Retired Military Personnel of 1987; 2) a draft law amendment to the Officers Service Law in Jordanian Armed Forces of 1987.

Financial Committee
The Financial Committee's resolutions were delivered by Dr. Khalil Al-Saleh, which have been endorsed by the Upper House as stipulated by the Committee's report: 1) a draft law amendment to the additional fees law for the Universities of Jordan, Yarmouk and Mu'tah of 1987; 2) a draft law endorsing a loan agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development as participation to finance the Aqaba thermal power station project (second phase) for 1987; 3) a draft law endorsing a loan agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Saudi Development Fund as participation to finance the medical science colleges project at the University of Science and Technology for 1987; 4) a draft law annexed to the Public Budget Law No.6 for the fiscal year 1987.

ADDRESSING THE outstanding issues regarding "economic and monetary policies", the Financial Committee's recommendations called for the following

actions:
— Limiting the debt:
The increase in the external and internal indebtedness figures (public liabilities) which are due on public institutions and the government places heavy burdens on the treasury, and if we ration the external public debt's service to total ex-

ses (such as new cars) and conducting a field survey on the government's inventories of vehicles.

— Hiring foreign experts:

The Committee maintained that the figure mentioned in the budget for hiring foreign expertise, which

had to be reviewed and reforms had to be introduced.

Unemployment, the Committee recommended, be solved within the framework of educational reforms. The Committee called for the adoption of a comprehensive programme which should take into account the formula of reciprocity between total revenues and total population.

— Other needed actions:

The Committee's recommendations called for a) posting the budgets of all public institutions and the aid fund's budget to the treasury; b) reviewing the increasing liabilities due on the Pension Fund, limiting early-age retirement and utilizing the experience of senior employees at various departments for a longer period of time; and c) the Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry's institutions mentioned in the Budget on page 23 under the current expenditures account and in the fourth section, for which total allocations amounted to JD 7,500,000.

Recommendations

ports from commodities and services, we conclude that we have reached a position which is difficult to overcome. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the government limit the debt's volume and adopt the necessary measures to carry out the process of debt reduction so as to comply with common economic norms.

— Controlling excess costs:
The Committee necessitated that government and public institutions' expenditures be controlled. The Committee, as well, called on limiting luxurious expen-

amounts to JD 11,000,000 is still high. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the government rely on local expertise and train manpower to replace the foreign ones.

— Administrative reforms:

The Committee contended that the government should take notice of public institutions' organizational status, by re-organizing their structures through coordination and mergers, and attaching some of them to their relative ministries. Outstanding projects, as well,

Weapons in the Gulf War— Who's selling where

By Dennis Chaplin and
Stephanie Willard
Special to The Star

IN THE wake of the United States' embarrassment over arms sales to Iran, United Nations researchers have singled out the Gulf war as "the driving force of today's arms trade."

Both the United Nations and the Independent Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) have reported recently that arms sellers worldwide continue to pour weapons into the Gulf conflict, now in its eighth year.

According to Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Rafele Khorasani, "If you have the money, you can buy all the weapons you want on the open market."

SIPRI analysts have named 25 countries as arming both Iraq and Iran on a consistent basis: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Bulgaria,

Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, North Korea, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, the Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, West Germany and Yugoslavia.

Twelve countries have been supplying Iran alone including Argentina, Canada, Finland, Israel, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey and Vietnam.

According to analysts, Iran has developed a massive world network of secret arms supply routes, even securing equipment from three of its sworn enemies—the United States, Israel and Iraq, the latter via captured hardware put back onto the market.

Four nations are selling exclusively to Iraq: Egypt, Jordan, the Philippines and Ethiopia.

Of the principal sellers, Brazil has emerged as cashing in most

with both combatants, probably, suggests the British-based Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT), because it is desperate to service its massive foreign debt.

The CAAT points to France as a country which has enough to improve its weak competitive position in civilian markets by increasing military sales.

Paris arms chiefs have sold Iraq \$5.6 billion worth of military hardware since 1980, 40 per cent of total French arms exports.

According to the British publication The Military Balance, the Middle East and North Africa spent \$63 billion on arms in 1986. Of this, around \$5 billion was spent by Iraq and \$15 billion by Iran.

China's burgeoning arms industry, keen to break into the world arms sales club, has been particularly active in the Gulf. Its Silk-worm missiles used by Iran against Gulf shipping have already found their place in history.

Continued on Page 6

economy

British Airways New strategies ahead

BAHRAIN (Star) - British Airways and United Airlines have announced a worldwide marketing partnership. The announcement was made by Jim Harris for British Airways and John Zeeman for United Airlines in New York City.

Speaking on the partnership in London, British Airways Chief Executive Sir Colin Marshall said, "the agreement represents an imaginative and creative initiative that will increase our influence in the US and worldwide market. Given the restrictions currently applying to ownership of US airlines and the fact that we do not compete directly with United Airlines we see this type of arrangement as the best way forward. As liberalisation spreads worldwide we would hope to see a greater strengthening of our position in a number of markets through co-operation with other airlines."

In New York Mr Harris and Mr Zeeman called the partnership a "marketing merger" of two of the world's biggest and most successful airlines and one that will give each carrier a greater presence in parts of the world where the other is the leader. "This alliance will create the world's most powerful airline team," said Mr Harris.

"Added to our joint work in the field of computer reservation services it will bring British Airways vastly increased penetration of the vital US market. It is a blueprint for the aviation world of the 1990s and beyond."

Under this arrangement customers will benefit from shared facilities including shared terminals at Seattle, Chicago, Washington and New York City, co-ordinated schedules, joint pricing, one-stop check-in services and marketing programmes. Agreement has been reached on a wide range of marketing initiatives, and the two carriers are looking at other ways to further the partnership. Both plan to explore the opportunities to negotiate food service provisioning to streamline the utilization of general sales agents and review the possibility of sharing ticket offices at a number of international and domestic destinations. Also being implemented is a programme geared to the cargo shipper and freight forwarder at attractive combined prices.

Other marketing plans include shared facilities. Beginning on January 4th BA will use United's facilities at Seattle/Tacoma, from 18 January BA will use United's facilities at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, from June 1988 BA will use United's facilities at Washington/Dulles for 747 flights, (BA has been using United's facility for its Concorde passengers at Washington/Dulles since September 2nd, 1987), and from June 1989 United will move into British Airways' terminal at New York's Kennedy Airport, subject to finalisation of terms by both carriers and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

United Airlines serves 165 cities in the US, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Japan, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand.

Another announcement by British Airways was made in London on 21 December that, following the unanimous recommendation of the British Caledonian group board to its shareholders to accept BA's increased offer of Pounds Sterling 12.15 per share for the entire issued share capital of BCAL, British Airways has now acquired 50.02 per cent of BCAL's issued share capital.

The price of Pounds Sterling 12.15 per share values BCAL at approximately Pounds Sterling 250 million.

Lord King, chairman of British Airways, commented: "We decided in the interests of both companies to make this final offer. Further delay in concluding the merger must be seriously affecting BCAL's trading position and morale of its staff."

We consider that the price we have paid will be fully justified in the future trading and earnings performance of BA. If we had failed to grasp this opportunity for expansion across the BCAL route network it might not arise again in the short to medium term future.

"BA has the financial, operational and marketing skills to turn BCAL around. Combining those skills with BCAL's considerable reputation for its standard of service based on the efforts of its staff, will make a valuable contribution to our future success."

In a statement to staff of BA and BCAL, Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of BA, said: "on behalf of all of us in BA I want to extend a sincere welcome to our new colleagues in BCAL. We have learned to respect their professionalism and pride in the company they have worked so hard to build. I believe that the new and greater airline we are building together will gain immeasurably from the skills and experience they will bring to it."

He stressed again that it was the company's expectation and hope that any reduction in the combined workforce could be achieved wholly through voluntary severance programmes available in relevant areas of both BA and BCAL and through natural wastage. He added: "while there will inevitably have to be changes in due course I want staff of both airlines to go into Christmas and the new year secure in the knowledge that their skills, experience and enthusiasm will be needed in full measure in the months and years ahead."

As part of BA's new schemes, it has unveiled a major new £25 million investment aimed at enhancing its worldwide business travel products.

The airline's aim is to attract a greater number of the business flyers who today already make up a quarter of its passengers and provide approximately £1 billion a year in revenue.

British Airways' entire in-flight service is being re-examined to keep the airline ahead of competitors and to reinforce its position as market leader in all classes of travel. The main features of Club World and Club Europe include new separate aircraft cabins, new seats on longhaul aircraft, new airport lounges and a comprehensive range of other innovations.

Sir Colin Marshall, British Airways chief executive, called the multi-million pound project "a new mark of respect for business travellers." From 5 January 1988 the present Super Club on inter-continental routes will be superseded by club World, a service tailored to the life style of the longhaul business traveller in the 1980's.

At the same time, service for 6,000 club class passengers every day in Europe will be radically improved with the birth of Club Europe.

Every aspect of a business traveller's encounter with the airline has been reviewed to establish Club as a unique blend of British style and service. Seating comfort was a prime requirement and in-

terior layouts on almost all the airline's 168-plus aircraft are being reconfigured to offer more legroom. After trials of five prototypes, some 2,500 new reclining seats are being fitted in 32 longhaul Boeing 747s and nine Tristars at a cost of £4 million.

Fixed partitions to create separate exclusive cabins will replace the present movable curtain dividers between Club and Economy on all flights. Express check-in, valet parking, swifter baggage delivery, priority reservations lines and a host of other improvements tailored to customer needs are being introduced.

Sir Colin said: "We have spent millions in recent years on improving our service, on the ground and in the air. But we cannot afford the luxury of complacency. In a fiercely competitive world, we need the best business class if we wish to be the best airline, hence this huge investment in manpower and technology."

Staff throughout the airline have helped create Club World and Club Europe, and will also be a key ingredient in their appeal. Says Sir Colin: "Our competitors use the same aircraft as we do. Seats can be copied. Legroom and standards of service can be matched. They cannot copy what is unique to British Airways - our staff's personal style of service. That sets us above the rest and will keep us there."

Announcing the changes today, Jim Harris, Director of Marketing, said: "When we launched Longhaul Club seven years ago, it was unrivalled. The market never stands still and our customers have changed. Our current business class was near the end of its life cycle. We needed a total rethink in this, arguably our most important market, before rivals could catch up. Club World and Club Europe will now keep us in front where we belong and intend to stay."

Target customers are the world's most frequent business flyers, usually men in their 40's, in very senior positions, and on average UK salaries of £35,000 a year, the top one percent of income earners. They fly on business more than 20 times a year, and know what rival airlines offer as well as British Airways.

Says Mr Harris: "These sophisticated, successful people have earned their status. We, in turn, must earn their respect - by offering a service to match. Design consultants went back to basics to produce an 'understated, contemporary style reflecting the intelligent thoughtful nature of the service', right down to the finest detail, even baggage tags."

Leading young British artists were picked to illustrate menus, and in-flight duty free goods include items chosen for uniqueness and looks. "Intelligent, creative design is now recognized as essential in developing a successful business; a lesson learned by High Street Shops", says Mr Harris.

"People are more visually aware and aesthetically critical of their world. Today's business passenger expects the appearance of excellence. Club World and Club Europe. In design, mood and service, will deliver this." The creation of Club has taken a year of development by every part of the airline. Market researchers interviewed passengers on what they expected and what rivals offered. And many praised British Airways' existing service.

Economic Adhocracy

By Jawad Anani



Economic hip-shootism

A HIP-shooter, according to "International Management," is "an executive who operates from visceral impulses rather than deliberation". These, according to the magazine, score high on decisiveness but often miss the target. Needless to say, the term comes from the movie cowboys who never "take careful aim".

Jordan right now should get busy tidying its economic situation. Sure, we are better off than many around us, but this is not good enough to stave off the future challenges. Now that the budget is approved, de facto and almost de jure, we should ask serious questions of economic policy which relate to the 1988 budget.

For instance, the unemployment question. This was tackled by three different seminars during the last 15 days. They attracted a host of people from the Jordanian society. While they were billed as a sign of the attention which is being given to this problem, the discussion which actually took place betrayed this pretension. There is simply a mounting unemployment problem which needs further concrete discussion and deep policy formation.

To solve this problem, we need to think globally, and then move to the specifics. To create employment, we need investment. To create investment, we have to answer many questions: What investment? What places? For whom? What cost? etc...

The investments that could be made in Jordan are of two main types; they are either resource-related or technology related. The source-related are the down stream phosphate and Dead Sea minerals, agriculture in the Zarqa basin, and agricultural manufacturing. The technology-related are those related to R&D and prove feasible, and those which can be unlimited in scope such as electronics, data networking, solar and wind energy, bio-technology, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, etc.

Thus, an investment framework should be developed. This framework or package should include projects, managers, financial arrangements and proper incentives.

Once we do that, we begin our march towards a balanced labour-market situation. Otherwise, we will continue hip-shooting without necessarily hitting the target. Employment should be the core of our Jordanian "glensnost."

Water resources More are needed in the year 2000

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star

1990, are due to the existing projects as stipulated in the five-year plan.

AMONG THE outstanding issues in the water sector, is providing drinking water for citizens in the year 2000. Studies suggest the installation of water pipes to pull the waters from Al-Makhsaba wells to the second pumping station in the Dair Alla project.

Another study suggests the desalination of the Red Sea waters having discovered reasonable deposits of gas. Such study necessitates the usage of ground well waters.

Studies in this concern, are aimed at lowering the costs of water consumption and providing healthy waters in the year 2000.

The following report highlights some of the main points about the Kingdom's demand for water consumption in the year 2000.

According to the report, the maximum pumping of waters in the Kingdom reached, during the summer of 1988, 16,800 cubic metres per hour. Using the above record as a criterion for other natural measures (a base), the growth in the year 2000 is expected to amount to 61,500 cubic metres per hour.

The higher rates of estimated growth for this decade, and until

December
1987

World Paper

World Paper
Journal Mondial
Diario Mundial
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CHILDREN OF WAR

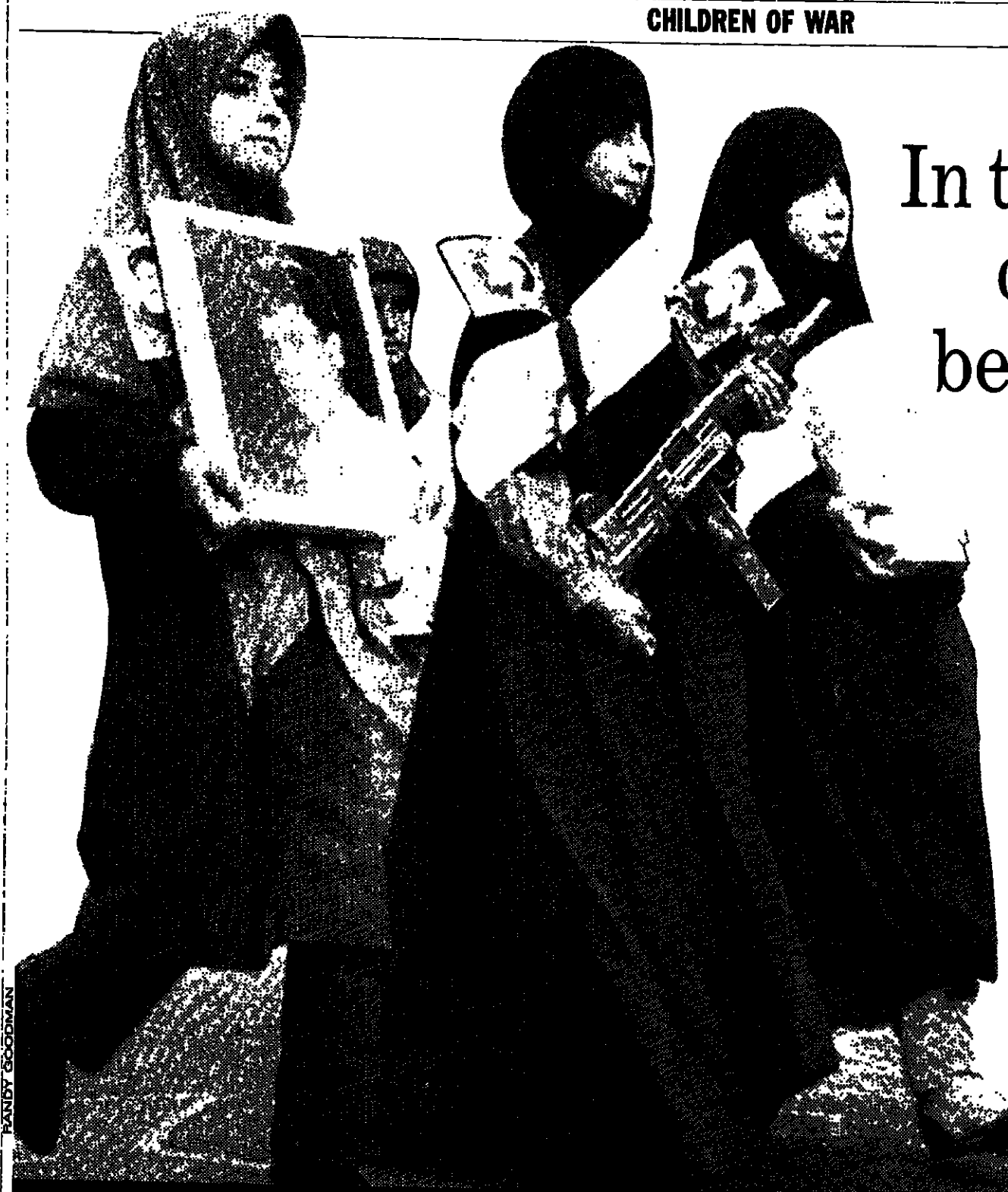
Peace on earth... not for these kids



As the Christian world marks Christmas, millions of children like this 9-year-old Ugandan marksman are caught up in armed conflict both as combatants and victims.

Inside: Satellite TV link between United States and Soviet Union creates Global Classroom.

CHILDREN OF WAR



In the new way of war, young become targets of armed conflict

Of 20 million dead in fighting in 70 countries since 1945, nine million were children, says UN

Iran finds pride in its gun-toting children.

BY MIKE JUPP
at the United Nations

IN SPITE of the many attempts over the past 60 years to give effective substance to the rights of children in war, more children than ever before appear to be dying today in armed conflict.

A significant percentage of these deaths are neither accidental nor the result of indiscriminate bombings or attacks.

"Rather," says psychologist Neil Boothby, "with increasing frequency, adolescents, young boys, young girls, and even infants, are being singled out for injury and death as a matter of calculated strategy."

Helping substantiate this claim is a 1986 report from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) noting that in World War I only 5 percent of casualties were civilian. In World War II, civilians made up 50 percent of casualties. In Vietnam, the proportion of civilian casualties rose to 80 percent of the total. In many current conflicts, such as Lebanon, more than 90 percent of the

Mike Jupp, a British national, is UN representative for Defense of Children International (DCI) and executive director of DCI-USA.

a victims are civilian men, women and children.

Precise figures are difficult to compile. Of the approximately 20 million people who have died in the 150 armed conflicts in 70 countries counted by UNICEF since the end of World War II in 1945, nine million have been children.

The deliberate or indiscriminate shooting, shelling or bombing of children has been reported from Afghanistan and Haiti to Mozambique and Namibia to Turkey and the West Bank-occupied territories under Israeli control.

The recruitment of children in armed forces and armed liberation movements—a practice contrary to international law—has been reported in at least 20 different countries, including Guatemala, El Salvador, Iran and Uganda.

The most blatant violations are believed to be in Iran, where more than 90,000 children have died in the war against Iraq.

"Children have taken part on the front line ever since the first days of the war," an Iranian spokesman said May 6, 1982. "We are proud of them."

Estimates of the children in the army of Yoweri Museveni, who seized power in Uganda in January 1986, have ranged from 2 percent to 10 percent.

"I saw my mother being assassinated by Obote's men," said child-soldier

George Kokosi, referring to former President Milton Obote, according to an account from the United Nations office of the Quakers. "I saw them come to my house and kill my father. I just ran away. Then I heard that Museveni's people were collecting girls and boys, so I joined them." He was 14.

The United Nations in 1959 adopted by consensus a non-binding Declaration on the Rights of the Child that mentions nothing specifically about protecting children from armed conflict but declares, "The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation."

Since 1979, a UN committee has met in Geneva for a week once a year to draft a Convention of the Rights of the Child that would have the force of an international treaty if passed by the General Assembly.

Under Article 20, signers would "take all feasible measures to ensure that no child takes a direct part in hostilities... and refrain from recruiting any child who has not attained the age of 15 years into their armed forces."

The draft is expected to be completed by January 1989 for submission to the UN General Assembly—by fall 1989.

The increase in the percentage of civilian casualties is due not only to the changing technology of weapons and the

polarization of ideologies, but to the changes in the ways wars are fought.

Many wars involve popular-or-unpopular guerrilla movements and popular-or-unpopular counter-insurgency forces. Both sides depend on gaining the support of the people to achieve their goals. If the support of the people cannot be attained, in many instances, one or both sides will adopt a policy of total subjugation.

In this circumstance, women and children become involved in the conflict and are likely to become the main casualties.

"Precisely because children are so precious," says Boothby, now at Duke University in the United States, "to destroy what is of highest value to someone is clearly among the most effective forms of terrorism imaginable."

There are allegations that deliberate wars against children are being waged in Afghanistan and in Nicaragua. The experience in South Africa is another example of deliberate government policy to terrorize and subjugate children.

Under parliamentary questioning, the South African government has disclosed that between the proclamation of the state of emergency on July 21, 1985, and mid-1987, the police had shot and killed more than 300 children and wounded 950.

Louis le Grange, then South African

minister for law and order, reported more than 71 percent of people arrested in 1985 for offenses related to black unrest—13,556 of 18,966—were under 20. Kobie Coetsee, the minister of prisons, said last March that 2,677 prisoners were 18-and-under, including 254 who were 15-and-under.

Matthew Molefe, an unemployed driver, said that on Sept. 24, 1986, two white and two black police officers took away his daughter, Cleopatra.

"They just told us they were going to question her and bring her back," he said. "But they never did."

A Pretoria Supreme Court judge denied Molefe's petition for his daughter's release last March 5.

Both governments and liberation movements have kidnapped children or made them "disappear."

Manuel George Antequera, 15, was

kidnapped in Chile in May 1986—two months after a secret squad assassinated his father, Amnesty International has reported. The son was beaten and threatened with death unless he stopped his activities with a youth movement.

In Argentina, at least 145 children disappeared between 1975 and 1983, either kidnapped by authorities with their parents or born in captivity to imprisoned women, then separated from their mothers.

Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, a group of relatives of the disappeared, have traced 41 youngsters, many found with adoptive parents who have claimed the youngsters as their own.

From Afghanistan have come allegations that 300 children between 15 and 17 have been taken from the country against their parents' wishes to be educated in the Soviet Union.

Case study: The young and the fighting in southern Africa

Money for defense translates into high infant mortality in Angola, Mozambique

BY TARZIE VITTACHI
in Nairobi, Kenya

WHEN PEOPLE TALK about children victimized by war the image that immediately arises in our minds is refugee children. It is a legitimate response. At least six million children live in refugee camps around the world. But these are only children "who qualify as refugees," as the bureaucrats primarily say, because they have crossed a national frontier.

Many more millions of children whose lives have been disrupted by war, civil or international, either have no parents or parents who are too limp to take them across a border to "qualify" as refugees. Internal refugees abound in countries around the Sahara, in Central America and in the front-line states of southern Africa where children in the hundreds-of-thousands are the victims of South African aggression through direct raids by its army and air force or through its mercenaries hired to destabilize neighboring governments.

The worst affected are Mozambique and Angola. Havoc by slaughter and by economic destabilization comes in Mozambique from the National Resistance Movement (Renamo) and in Angola from UNITA—Jonas Savimbi's forces subsidized by his friends in South Africa and the United States.

A total of 14.5 million people live in Mozambique, 8.5 million in Angola. Children under 15 are slightly less than half the population and children 1-to-5 around 20 percent. In the past five years their infant mortality rate has been around 350. That is, 350 children in each thousand die before

their first birthday. Much of this was colonial inheritance. Mozambique inherited an illiteracy rate of 93 percent and Angola 80 percent. Sheer poverty and centuries of neglect had left them miserably poor and ill-equipped to deal with their own problems of national development. They did not need the South African factor to compound them.

The world spends US\$1 trillion annually on the military, about \$1.9 million a minute. During that minute, 30 children die from lack of food, vaccines or other attention.

—UNICEF Report, 1986

South African air force squadrons have flown over the plains that make up the bread basket of Angola every week for the last eight years blasting every sign of sprouting life. This damage is nothing compared to the daily hammering the villagers take from UNITA. In Mozambique, it is not quite the same. Overt raids from South African forces are not so brazen or frequent, but the covert damage done through Renamo is perhaps as bad, if not worse.

The death toll of children under 5 directly attributable to the conflicts was around 137,000 in 1985, probably more than 150,000 now—half the number of the yearly deaths of small children. But the economic pressure on the governments to turn funds from social services to defense has resulted in around 45 percent of the budget

The effects of war on children go far beyond their direct involvement as victims or combatants. According to UNICEF, the infant and child mortality rates in Angola and in Mozambique are the highest in the world, largely because of fighting and conflict-related destabilization. Officials say the blame for the high mortality rates can be traced to the economic difficulties caused by the cross-border military strikes and South Africa's support for guerrilla groups in both lands.

Children should not be dependent on the charity of adults for protection. Justice demands that as human beings, they are entitled to a basic degree of protection as a fundamental right. A commitment by adults to establish and guarantee the rights of the child should be paramount in the agenda for the 21st century. ♦

being given over to military spending, possibly the highest in the world.

In the past five years, mercenaries have destroyed 484 health centers in Mozambique, some repeatedly. Hundreds of doctors and paramedics have been killed or seriously wounded. Nearly half the primary schools have been put to the torch, depriving about 400,000 children of early schooling.

In Angola figures are harder to get. But the delivery of health services has dropped by about 30 percent. The national budget is under enormous strain not only from the demands of vigilance against Savimbi and the South Africans but also from the weight of feeding, clothing, and sheltering several hundred thousand people displaced by war and preventing these internal refugees and nearly four million other people from actually falling over the brink of famine.

On a recent trip to southern Africa, I realized that the drought of 1984, which many thought was over, never had relented in Mozambique and Angola. Where the rains had fallen in 1985 and 1986, the arid breath of the drought is once again blowing, searing and cracking the soil into parched earthen patties on which no life can exist.

Mozambique's late President Samore Machel, vilified by South Africa as a "Maoist" and adored by his people as a humanist, said shortly before he was killed: "Our children are our flowers which will never wither."

The war being waged against them has come very near to proving him not to have been a Maoist but an impossible rhapsodist.

—Tarzie Vittachi is a WorldPaper associate editor.

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CHILDREN OF WAR

From illegal childhood to freedom fighter in dock

How a South African grew up under apartheid

SAZI LIVINGSTON VELDTMAN, 29, stood trial earlier this year in Cape Town, South Africa, with 14 other blacks accused of membership in Umkhonto We Sizwe, often just called MK and translated from Xhosa as "the spear of the nation." The MK is the militant wing of the outlawed, multiracial African National Congress (ANC). In his defense statement, Veldtman confessed to ANC involvement, then painted a picture of a child growing up to join the war against apartheid:

If I had listened to my aunt, I would not be in court today. She always said I must mind my own business and not worry with other people. I tried hard but it is difficult for Africans to do that.

I speak of my aunt because she brought me up from a baby. My mother died when I was about 2 years old. Three years after I had been left in custody of my grandfather in 1963, he died.

I was handed over to my aunt, Mrs. Pingane. She brought me to Cape Town. I was eager for school. At the beginning of 1967 she took me to a school. I was happy then. But the principal said he could not take me. My aunt took me to other schools but there also she was refused.

Though I was young, she told me the problem. I was not legal in Cape Town, she said. She told me my name must be on her rent card. The principals wanted to see her rent card. If my name was not on the rent card, it meant I was not a legal person. She promised to make things right and went to the pass office in Nyanga but she was rudely chased away. So I did not go to school in 1967 or 1968.

My early years were hard. Coming to Cape Town brought unhappiness. Even as a child the pass laws affected me. At the beginning, it was because I was not on the rent card. Inspectors from the pass office came to the house many times. They would check the number and names of people in the house.

My aunt had told me that when they came, I must hide. When I saw the van at the door, I ran out the back door. Sometimes I was too late and hid under the bed or in the cupboard. I was always very much afraid, but my aunt knew how to talk to these people.

My first trouble with the law was in December, 1966. My aunt brought me from the Transkei. I was just very small then, but the inspector stopped us at the railroad station and asked my aunt why she did not pay for me. We were arrested. My aunt was locked up on one side. I was locked up in a cell with three men—all adults. They kept swearing. I

cried until my uncle fetched me and my aunt. My aunt had to pay the ticket and a fine.

Pass laws were very bad for us. In my childhood I saw many people arrested for passes. But my aunt was very careful to keep her pass so when she was stopped, she always had it. She taught me that when I was 16 I would need a pass.

I was again arrested in 1972. When I was asked for this pass (which I then already regarded as a badge of slavery) I did not have one. I told the policeman I was only 14 years old. I was not believed and was locked up, this time with drunk people. In the cell they took my money. Fortunately, after a few hours I was again released.

I was doing Standard 9 at Langa High School in 1976, the year all African school children protested against the in-

roduction of Afrikaans as the language of teaching in our schools.

We peacefully marched to the Langa police station to demand the release of our fellow students who had been detained. On that day, one of our fellow students was shot dead by the police. This was followed by the death of my friend, Mkululi, who was shot in front of me by the police and dragged towards the bushes. I ran away to avoid the police. It was the very same year my home was burnt down by the riot police.

I went to the University of the North in 1980. When I arrived in Pretoria I was again detained. On arriving there, I did not know what to do and walked around on the station. The police found me standing in a platform that was for whites only. I did not know this but I was not given a chance to explain. I was held for about eight hours and pleaded with the police to let me go. I had no money, and a policeman said that I must get out of Pretoria as quickly as I can.

The University of the North was not happy for me. All the lecturers were Afrikaners and they always insulted blacks. We found that whenever we complained or held a meeting to discuss our problems, the police were called on to campus. We only wanted to discuss our problems and to talk to the rector.

The police never listened to us. They just ordered us to disperse. At the same time we boycotted lectures. The whole campus was filled by a large contingent of police. Though we did nothing wrong, the police started teargassing, charged us with batons and shot at the students. That was the only answer that we received from the authorities. That very same year I was expelled from this university for taking part in the peaceful protest. That ended my education career.

When I went to work and found that I was so exploited, I realized that for Africans there can be no happiness.

I realized that the African National Congress was the only instrument which can guarantee the bringing about of a democratic society where white and black shall live in brotherhood and harmony. For us black people, is there any other way out?

Because of my own suffering and those of my friends, I owe it to my people and my country to take part in the struggle. I owe this to my dear aunt. I owe this to my wife and our children. I owe this to our suffering nation. I am not a terrorist. I am a freedom fighter. I am striving for a free and democratic South Africa based on the will of the people. ♦

'I knew the soldier had shot me,' recalls a child

South African girl, 13, recounts attack that paralyzed her

THABISENG MABUSA is a 13-year-old girl, a member of a family of black South African political refugees who once lived in the Botswana capital, Gaborone, 20 miles from the land of her birth. Today, paralyzed from the waist down by bullets fired from a high-velocity army rifle, she attends the Saint Giles Rehabilitation Center in Harare, Zimbabwe. Shock alone often is sufficient to kill people hit with such bullets, surgeons testify. Thabiseng was shot in 1986 when South African government troops invaded Botswana searching for African National Congress guerrillas. This is her story, as told to a conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, on child victims of South African apartheid:

After my father passed away in 1983, I lived with my mother and 7-year-old sister.

On the night of June 14, 1986, we had visitors at our home in Gaborone—my uncle and aunt, their two young children and two of my friends, aged 12 and 7.

At about 8 o'clock, my aunt sent me to the bedroom to get something for her baby.

I suddenly heard a bang. I stood up. I saw a soldier outside the window.

I ran out of the bedroom to see



She survived wounds to speak out against South African apartheid.

what was happening. Somebody was kicking the door very hard. It burst open and I saw another soldier, shooting. He was wearing a mask. I panicked and tried to run.

There was another shot followed by a lot more in rapid succession. There was a light on the veranda. The soldier could see me clearly. I was wearing a dress.

I fell down. Although I could not feel anything, I knew the soldier had shot me in the tummy.

I tried to get up and run again. Then he shot me again in the back.

The soldier fired into the dining room and the bedrooms. He hit my aunt and killed her.

I cried and cried for help. After the soldiers left, neighbors came. My mother then brought a man with a car who took me to hospital, but I was paralyzed. I could not move my lower limbs.

In the language of our people, my name, Thabiseng, means "make me happy."

Despite my disability, I am cheerful because I have a loving mother, people who care for me and encourage me to do things for myself.

I am now in the seventh grade at Saint Giles School in Harare and I am learning to walk with crutches—not very well, but I can do it.

—By Michael Hartnack in Harare, Zimbabwe.

CHILDREN OF WAR

Big trade in peddling war to kids

But violent toys slump

A WorldPaper SPECIAL REPORT

MONKEYS STILL bear the burden in the hilltop village of Hora because no motor vehicles exist in this farm settlement of 250 people overlooking the Gulf of Corinth, 90 minutes by boat south of Athens.

But the children of Hora play with up-to-date HeMan toy dolls, a fierce robot with bulging muscles introduced two years ago, reports Evangelina Harris Stefanakis, who lived there while teaching school in the Greek capital.

Hora also has no television, the principal medium that has spread the news of so-called "action" or "war" toys among children all over the world.

"We had a lot of little kids who didn't know what to do with their toy," said Mrs. Stefanakis.

Then the village store stocked for its young customers a comic book that explained in detail the scenario of violent action prescribed for HeMan.

The youngsters of Hora, isolated as they are, have been touched by a worldwide, multi-billion-dollar industry that thrives on selling conflict and violence to children in the form of war toys, television programs, motion picture films and comic books.

No precise figures are available for the worldwide trade. But the sale in the United States alone of action toys, including items such as GI Joe, Rambo and Master of the Universe dolls and Transformer robots often described by critics as war toys, amounted in 1986 to \$1.5 billion of a total toy sale of \$12.5 billion, reports the US Toy Manufacturers Association.

Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, the Philippines and Malaysia are among the countries supplying these and other toys for the US and other Western markets. Of the \$213,000,000 in small dolls, including action figures, the United States imported in 1986, Hong Kong and Macao supplied \$87 million, China \$59.6 million and Taiwan \$35.1 million. The total import nearly doubled from \$110.6 million in 1982.

Many toys are inextricably linked with television cartoon programs that picture the dolls as heroes and amount to 30-minute commercial messages promoting their sale. From one cartoon program about a toy on US television in 1984, the number grew to 28 last year. With toy companies paying between \$13 million and \$20 million to produce 65 half-hour segments—enough for 13 weeks—for each series, that business



Conflict in the valley of toy dolls means heavy profit for manufacturers.

alone approaches the billion-dollar level worldwide. Films now appear on French and English television. Animators in Japan, South Korea, China, Argentina and Brazil churn out product for impressionable young viewers of many languages.

New TV programs are planned to promote interactive toys that with the help of electric impulses emanating from the screen allow youngsters to shoot at villains in a show.

Although television promotion and advertising is nonexistent in the Soviet Union and other Eastern countries, realistically shaped weapons and other war material turn up as popular toys.

"There is also an educational message in these countries that a distinction should be made between aggressive 'imperialistic' war toys and 'patriotic' ones aimed at ensuring peace, reports Bengt Thelin of the Swedish National Board of Education.

Civic groups ranging from Toronto, Canada, to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to Sydney, Australia, believing the toys promote the "militarization of children for commercial ends," organized protests against war toys last Nov. 27-28. Debate is endless over the potential harm of violent toys, films and children's books.

"Certainly, no war will start because children play with tanks and bombers. The existence of war toys confirms the view that war and violence are natural and inevitable components of human life and, what is more, are something that can be used for play and entertainment."

The toy industry claims that no research firmly has linked war toys with the spread of violent conflict. About a Rambo doll equipped with its own rocket launcher, Arnold C. Greenberg, chairman of Coleco, the US company that marketed the toy, said, "He is a patriotic American hero who personifies fair play, decency and justice."

Malta is the one country that formally has banned the import of such toys. Sweden, Finland and West Germany have promoted voluntary embargoes.

With sales at their peak in the Christmas gift-giving season, action toy sales in the United States—the world's major toy barometer—were expected to drop 20 to 25 percent this year, forecasts

Paul Valentine, who monitors the industry for Standard and Poors Corporation in New York City.

The US Hasbro Inc., the world's largest toy company and maker of GI Joe, for years the best-selling US toy, reported profits dropped 71 percent to \$11.2 million from \$38.2 million during its

The cost of one nuclear submarine equals the combined annual education budget of 23 developing countries with a total of 160 million school-age children.

—Dr. Arabang Maruping, UNICEF executive board chair.

1987 third quarter, traditionally the most profitable period for toy makers because that's when they ship Christmas goods. "Is the abundant offering of war toys—especially at Christmas, the message of which is peace on earth—a cultural and moral phenomenon of a degenerating society?" asks Thelin. Coleco budgeted \$22 million last year to introduce Rambo and his associates,

including a doll wearing an Arab kaffiyah named Nomad and described as a "heartless terrorist" in promotion literature. Coleco, insisting it planned no offense, informed a protesting American-Arab Anti-discrimination Committee in December 1986 that it planned to discontinue production of Nomad. While Rambo has appeared for sale in England, youngsters have rejected it, said industry sources.

"The market is flooded with male action toys that have flopped," Valentine said.

Dr. Thomas Radecki, a psychiatrist and president of the National Coalition of Television Violence, a US-based organization with branches in 19 countries, believes such toys and films never should have been on the market.

"We don't say the evidence is conclusive," he said, "but it is overwhelming that violent entertainment has harmful effects."

"As a people, we have become desensitized to violence. If kids pretended to have sex on the living room floor, I don't know any parents who wouldn't stop them immediately. Yet, when it comes to murder, more heinous than sex play, the average parent, as long as the kids don't knock over any lamps, wouldn't say anything." ♦



TO ALL INVOLVED IN CHILD CARE

In 1988, UNICEF and Oxford University Press will publish a major new book bringing together today's new knowledge about protecting the normal development of children. Drawing on the help of many leading experts from around the world, the book sets out the basic up-to-date facts on ORT, growth checking, breast-feeding, immunization, weaning methods, vitamin A deficiency, birth spacing, food supplements, and parental health education—knowledge which, at very low cost, can reduce child deaths and child malnutrition by at least half.

If you would like details of this publication or other UNICEF publications, including the *State of the World's Children 1988* annual report which will become available in December, please contact your local UNICEF office, or write Division of Information and Public Affairs, UNICEF, UNICEF House, 3 UN Plaza, New York 10017, USA.

CHILDREN OF WAR



Baghdad hospital becomes part of the war for these youngsters.

'Mommy, stop the bombs,' cries an Iraqi youngster

Children must adapt to missile-battered Baghdad

BY T. H. RASSAM CULHANE
in Baghdad, Iraq

"MAKE IT STOP, Mommy," cried 5-year-old Hisham, clutching his hands to his head. It was the Iraqi child's first trip to London. He couldn't believe his mother when she told him the explosions shaking their English flat were just thunder.

Hisham never has known a time when even the softest "boom" didn't mean immediate danger. When Hisham celebrates his sixth birthday this month, the war between Iraq and Iran will be two years older than he.

In London, the explosions stopped. Not in Baghdad. The Iranian offensive started in December 1986 when Hisham and his sister, Neveen, 9, were preparing, as Iraqi Christians, to celebrate Christmas. Their mother was working late at the television station. With their father recently dead from lung cancer, their cousin, Taha, 24, cared for them.

As is usually the case in missile attacks, the family awoke, almost by instinct, seconds before the rocket hit. Neveen and her cousin abruptly sat up and stared wide-eyed at each other. A puff of wind blew back the curtains. Then came the explosion. Neveen screamed. Her cousin crawled over the beds and reached her with a hug.

"It's okay, Noo-noo," she said as calmly as possible. "It's over. They missed us."

Hisham visited his Uncle Sammy, the dentist, the next day. Sammy's son,

T.H. Rassam Culhane stayed with his Iraqi grandparents while reporting from Baghdad.

reality to Sammy because some of the names in it were of people he knew. Then the missile ploughed into the banks of the Tigris River, two blocks away. The building shook under the sonic boom. Souhair stopped reading. Uncle Sammy dropped his drill. Hisham cried.

Uncle Sammy looked at the broken windows and cracked plaster of his office.

"I guess we'll drill your tooth some other day," he told Hisham.

Hisham beamed and leaped from the chair. Saved by the bomb.

Baghdad has grown accustomed to missile attacks. Hundreds have died. In the worst, 32 were killed and 218 wounded, mostly children, when an Iranian rocket crashed into their school Oct. 14.

Life goes on. Once the missile strikes, the fear subsides. You are alive. Taha remembers taking Hisham and Neveen to their own school. In the schoolyard, the children pretended they were on the battlefield and sang songs of bravado.

"Khomeini, ya Khomeini," they sang. "Go ahead and try it, Khomeini. You can't stop us. You won't destroy us. Oh, foolish and stupid Khomeini."

To survive the missile attacks emotionally, the children had to believe the enemy was evil incarnate, that they were good and that good would triumph over evil. In the lexicon of Iraqi children of war, the bad guys are Khomeini and his mullahs; the good guys are President

Saddam Hussein, Michael Jackson, Madonna and Stevie Wonder.

After eight years of war, older youths grow weary and disillusioned. Iraq has lost 250,000 soldiers. Discussing the future with an American visitor, Andre, 19, an Armenian-Iraqi computer student burst out, "It is easy for you to talk about how important it is to study this or that and encourage me to pursue a Ph.D. as though I had all the time and the freedom in the world."

"As far as I know, I don't even have a future. Me, I cannot leave my country. I may not even live past next year. Right now, all that matters is being alive."

Arno and Jack, in their late teens, took the family car when their unhappiness over the war threatened to overcome them and floored the accelerator that night until they were doing 160 kilometers an hour.

"When it is time to die, we die," said Arno when asked to slow down. "War or peace, our lives are in God's hands."

Other young men gather at *Flippers*, Baghdad's most popular video-game nightspot.

Mu'thir, 23, mixes with the adolescents, spending up to 10 dinars, almost US\$30, a day on video games like *Commando*, *Shootout*, *Tank Attack* and *Rambo*.

His brothers and his friends are with him, practicing with dogged determination. They soon will leave for training and a real game of *Commando* in which "Game Over" is a permanent condition. ♦

A 'normal life' in abnormal Beirut

Unable to ride her bike around the block, Rania, 12, feels trapped

LANIA GHOFF, 12, was born in the second year of the Lebanese civil war in 1975 and has lived all of her life in the most war-torn part of West Beirut.

What seems normal to Rania is by all standards abnormal to children of her age elsewhere in the world. Rania cannot go skating or ride her bicycle around the block of her house. Rania misses playing with girls her own age. Her classmates live in different neighborhoods, and travel through the city is too dangerous. Small children are supposed to stay indoors in Beirut, a city ruled by thugs who exchange fire any time, any place and for any reason.

"It makes me feel miserable, trapped and bored," said Rania. "I am a prisoner in my own house, school and neighborhood."

Except for weekends or when street fighting blocks her way, Rania, escorted by her unemployed father, William, walks back and forth daily three blocks to International College, a private, mixed school.

Her father lost his cashier's job

of 15 years when the Chase Manhattan Bank closed its Beirut office in December, 1985.

Her Intermediate One classmates represent a Muslim-Christian cross section.

"School is fun," says Rania. "We play a lot. We do not have political discussions. We are sick and tired of them."

At home, she and her brother, Marwan, 4, build puzzles or play the Atari video game that is a symbol of better times in the Ghoff family. She prefers her Barbie doll. Marwan plays war games.

"I do not like to see weapons, even toy weapons," she says. "I am sick of war."

Until last Easter, Rania never had attended a movie. No one dared take her until she visited an aunt who lives in predominantly Christian East Beirut.

Home is a fourth-floor, three-bedroom flat that has housed the Ghoff family for 45 years. Although Christian, the Ghoffs have remained in the predominantly Muslim neighborhood. They cannot afford to move, let

alone leave Beirut for a peaceful country. The sole wage earner is Rania's mother, a secretary in an insurance office.

The night of Feb. 6, 1984, Rania was caught with her family in the apartment when a rocket fell on the family Fiat car parked in front of the building.

The first floor was ablaze, trapping the Ghoffs in their flat until the Red Cross rescued them.

They moved back to the old building. The moment they hear an explosion or the popping sound signalling the breaking of the sound barrier and a possible missile attack, family members rush to a lower floor and take shelter with a neighbor. Rania helps her father carry buckets of drinking water from a public well to fill jerry cans kept on the balcony as a reserve if fighting halts water service.

Rania still trembles at the sound of shooting by the road. "I can't help it, I'm afraid," she says. "I hate the militias. I hate weapons. I hate the war."

—By Maha Samara, a reporter for *An Nahar* in Beirut.

CHILDREN OF WAR

War bends childish minds, says expert

Despite conventions, modern conflict makes young a fighting resource

BY COLWYN TREVARTHEN
in Edinburgh, Scotland

IN AFGHANISTAN AND Iran, where predatory invaders have come many times, there is an ancient tradition of carrying guns and fighting. Boys are eager to join their fathers, uncles and grandfathers in the struggle against enemies of their religion and homeland.

In other lands, the chaos of war has destroyed all traditions and normal morality. Children have become an expendable fighting resource, despite the Geneva Convention, which forbids nations to enlist children under 15.

Psychologists studying the effects of war on children have learned what happens to a young person who has witnessed atrocities and the killing of loved ones. They now know what incomprehensible violence can do to childhood trust, having seen children switching loyalty from violated parents or friends to the attackers. They know the guilt of an older child who escapes by cunning when companions die.

The loss of a loved one devastates 2 to 4-year-old children of war. They cease to speak or play. They fret or, silently, accusingly, observe, as if waiting for the misery and loss to cease. They sleep fitfully and wake screaming. War makes the playfulness of children infinitely sad. It is disturbing to note that countries now at war have high, under-5 mortality rates ranging from 9 percent to 30 percent, five times the rate of rich, peaceful countries.

Children of 5 or 6 years can enter into war. By 9 or 10 they can fight and collect "intelligence," are capable of being brave, alert and devoted to violent purposes. Motivated to seek a responsible place in human society, they can be led into fighting. Ten-to-15-year-olds even have been trained to protect older soldiers by trying out terrain before an advance, jumping on land mines, or drawing fire.

Growing up in war leaves the young helpless, ignorant, aghast and, perhaps, enraged when they return to a normal peaceful world with its ancient traditions and subtle religious beliefs. Children carry a strong intuition about love and freedom. They exhibit fear and loss when this expectation is betrayed.

Adolescents active in war may grow too quickly into adults who feel that decisive bravery and obedience in danger are the only virtues. They miss the development that fits them to be nurturing, tender mothers and responsible, protective fathers who help each other.

Colwyn Trevarthen is professor of child psychology and psychobiology at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

The largest number of all children who suffer from war are with families destitute because fighting has disorganized and impoverished their homeland. Governments have been transformed into agents of war, more concerned with training, feeding, moving and arming soldiers than in maintaining food production and shelter, public health or education of children. Fathers leave, mothers

can't feed their children and chase them off, as young as 5 years, to fend for themselves. They join the world's estimated 30 million vagrant children.

Stressful experiences in childhood affect brains undergoing crucial changes. We are only beginning to understand how developments in brain organization relate to intelligence, the ability to think, act well and use one's mind in solving

problems and sharing meaning with other humans. The chaos and anxiety surrounding war undoubtedly can prevent children's brains from developing normally.

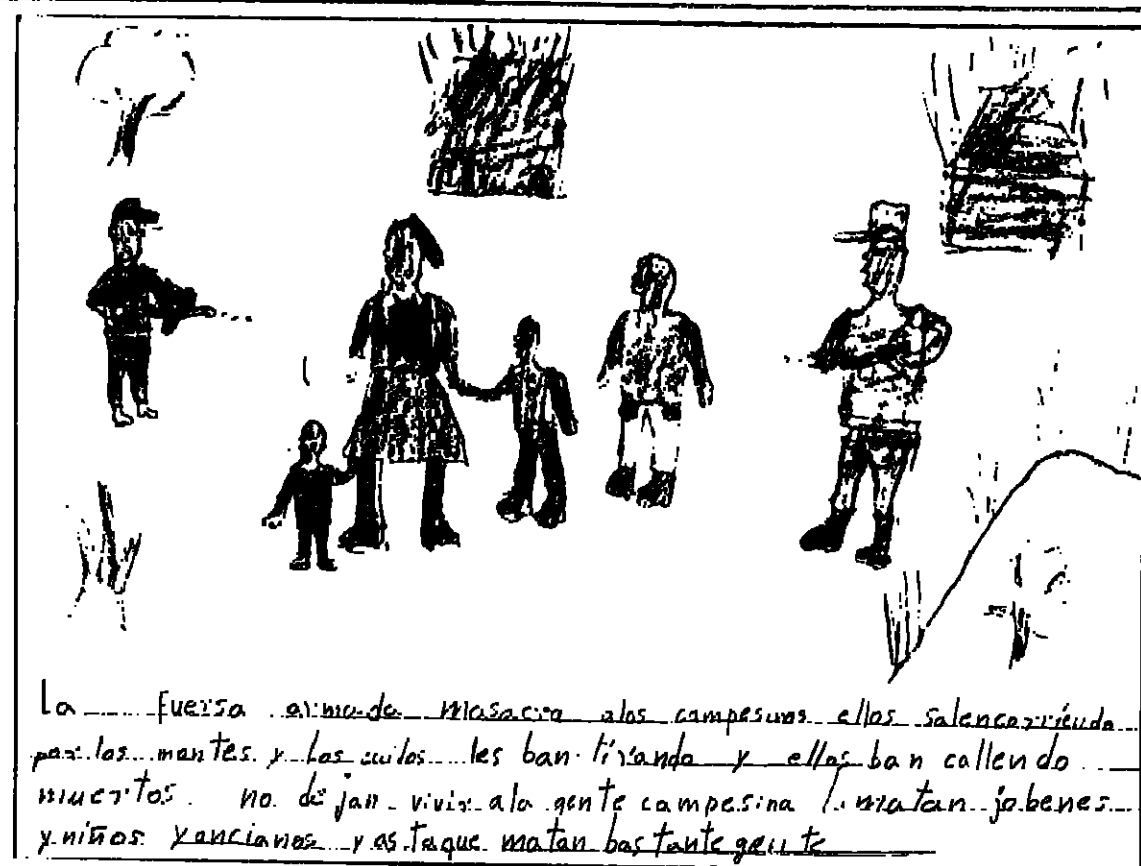
In peace, children are moral, cooperative and very perceptive of the symbols and roles of the traditional way of life. Their needs give them special human rights. UNICEF has promoted since 1983 the concept of "children as a neutral zone," to be protected with first priority in all armed conflicts.

We don't so much have to protect and shape children as to avoid betraying them in their needs and natural expectations. They will tell us what they need. ♦

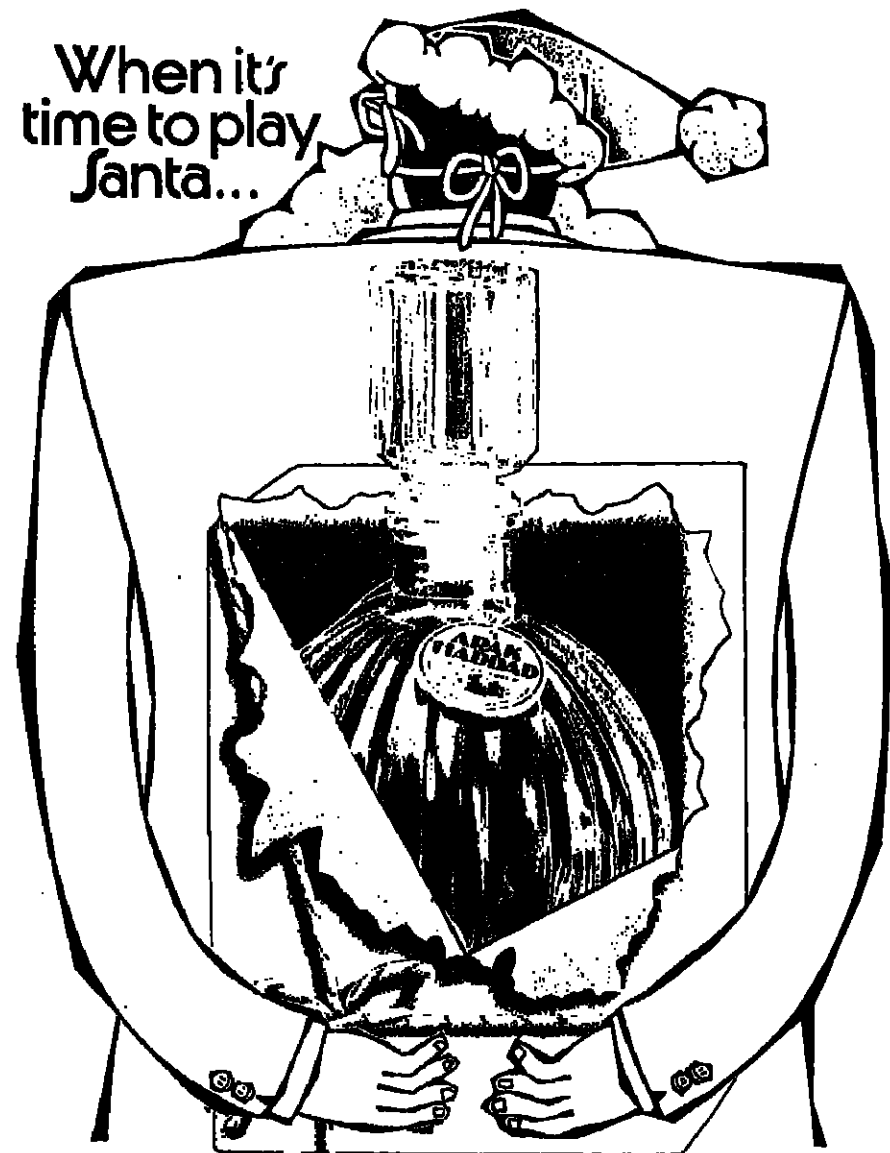
A Sheaffer can say it all

The way you write and the pen you choose both say a lot about you. A Sheaffer says it with style.

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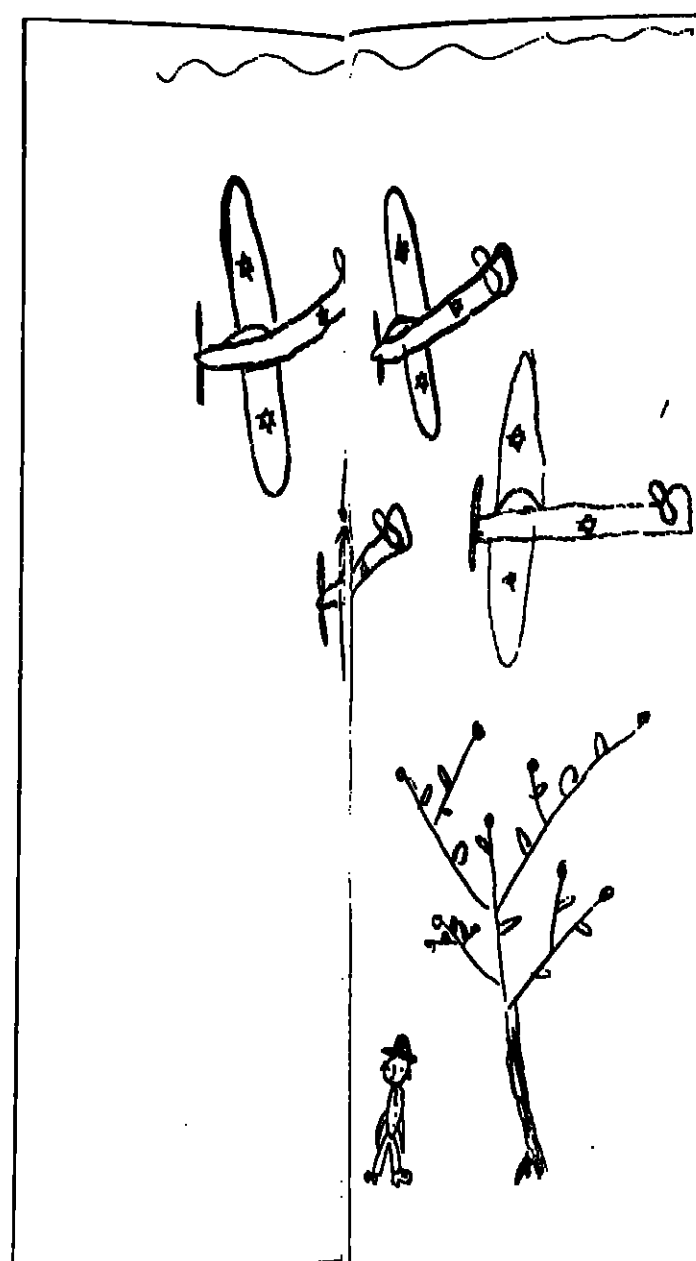
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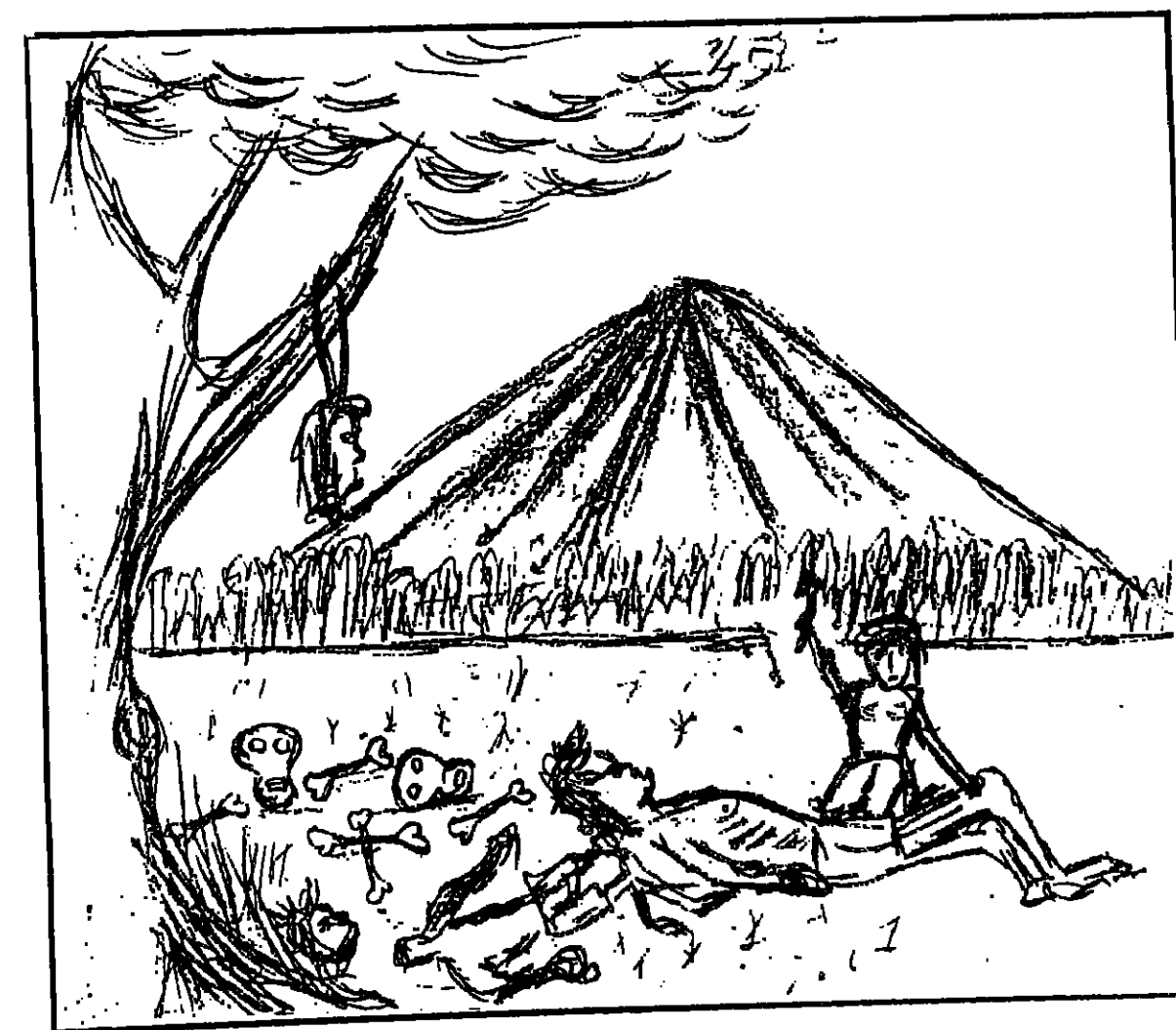
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Frm young minds: unforgettable horrors



MASSADA, ISRAEL



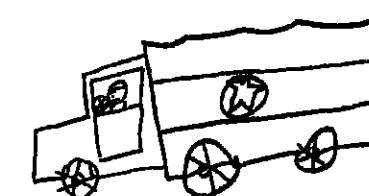
Out of the scrawls of babes comes wisdom about war. These drawings from refugee camps near the Cambodian border, in Ethiopia and in El Salvador, and from letters of Israeli children to their soldier-fathers reflect how deeply the horrors of conflict have touched young minds.

"They draw pictures of people having their heads cut off, their hearts pulled out, somebody eating their limbs," Steven Muncy, a US social worker told *WorldPaper* about the Vietnamese boat children he works with in Philippine refugee camps. "These are children who have not seen television or who have not been to the movies."

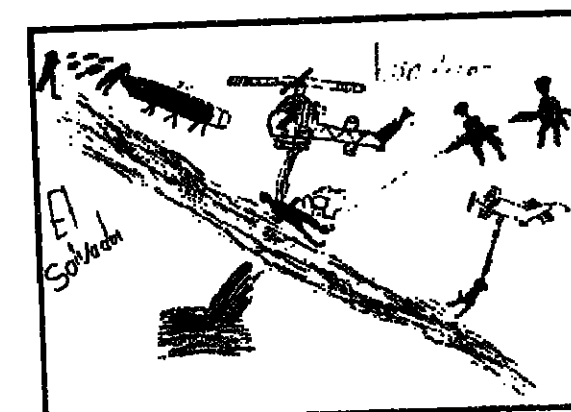
"Generally, they are drawing from what they remember about their own experiences." Will they ever forget?

"They'll cope," said Muncy. "In fact, I hope they never forget. Because if you don't forget, you'll take actions to prevent it from happening to other people."

THE
NUCLLYER
WAR



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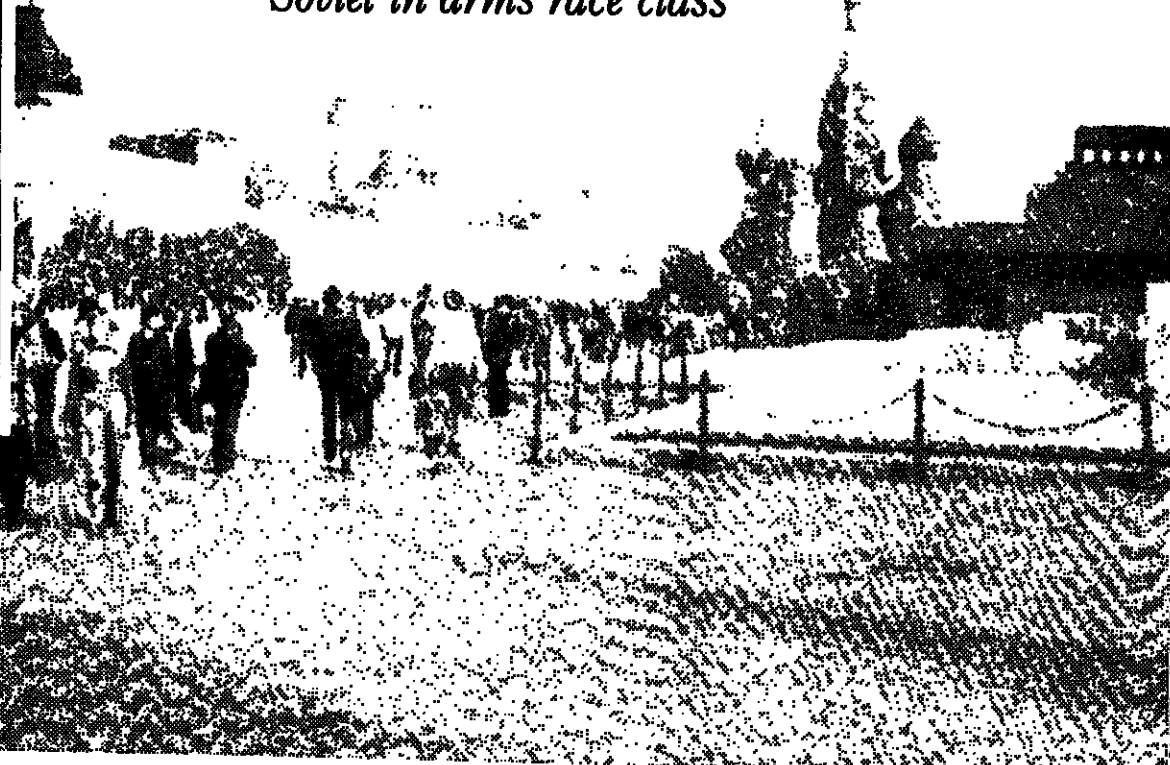
THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM



From Mayer to Moscow.

College by satellite

TV hookup links US,
Soviet in arms race class



In a first for global collegiate studies, two classrooms, one at Moscow M.V. Lomonosov State University, the other at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, in the United States, will be linked in February by a live, satellite television hookup with simultaneous translations creating a global classroom in which US and Soviet students will study the history of the arms race—together. The link will pioneer the work of educators who seek social purpose in new global programs that fix on a single, vital subject, whether it is examining outer space, the dangerous consequences of splitting a tiny atom or trying to teach Protestant or Roman Catholic youngsters to live together in peace in Northern Ireland. The Tufts-Moscow link will be the model for a worldwide curriculum for peace studies that Dr. Jean Mayer, French-born president of Tufts University, is developing with other educators. In this conversation with World-Paper Assistant Editor Brad Durham, Dr. Mayer explains his dream:

What do you hope to achieve with your proposal of a "worldwide curriculum" for peace?

When I started thinking about universities taking an active part in the problem of disarmament, there was no movement at all, politically, and I thought that somebody had to do something. I decided that universities could be used to look seriously at disarmament options and the process of negotiation. When Reagan and Gorbachev met in Reykjavik, Iceland, last winter, people didn't really understand what the proposals on arms control meant, the differences between long-range, medium-range and short-range missiles and what was at stake. There was a lack of basic understanding about negotiations, particularly in terms of conflict resolution. I realized that if this understanding doesn't start at the university level, it doesn't start at all. So why not make the effort?

When did this idea begin to take shape?

I had spoken about this problem to a long-time friend of mine, Shigeyoshi Matsumae, president of Tokai University in Tokyo. I thought Tokyo would be a nice, neutral place to hold a meeting of this nature. He agreed to host a meeting on the Tokai University campus in December 1986 with university presidents from the Soviet Union, China, Japan, and myself to talk about this problem. It was an exploratory meeting and we talked very seriously about what can be done on the university level.

What came out of this meeting to implement this idea?

I was very encouraged by the reaction of the other presidents. I wrote in February 1987 to Gorbachev. I said this is the situation as I see it: People are very suspicious of what the other side thinks about arms control. I proposed

having a course which would encompass arms control, its history, and the available options. The course would be taught simultaneously at Tufts and Moscow State University with a television link between the two courses. Since then I was invited twice to Soviet Union, meeting with Evgeny Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Union's Academy of Sciences and a chief advisor on arms control, a very important man. He told me that he had been instructed by Secretary General Gorbachev to work with us and that he would be the anchor-man in Moscow.

What is the format of the instruction?

We're going to have a course with a joint syllabus and, as much as we can because of the problem of translation, with joint reading. Once a month, starting in February, there will be a two-hour television hook-up with simultaneous translations, where the students at Tufts and in Moscow can ask questions and listen to the answers.

How does this fit your international curriculum for peace program?

I called a meeting of the university presidents of, first, the Asia-Pacific area because we started in Tokyo. It was held in August and 79 presidents from the whole Asia-Pacific area attended, including five presidents from Soviet universities. They all endorsed the course and endorsed the idea of having a world-wide university presidents meeting next September in Talloires, France. The meeting will concentrate on a joint minimum curriculum involving

arms control and negotiations. In preparation we have a group in Japan, in the United States, Sweden and in Paris and with UNESCO, which is doing a compendium of what is being taught in those fields throughout the world. Next September, I will be able to show my colleagues what is being taught. I don't want this meeting to be limited to a singular event. I would also like to see it lead to exchanges of curriculum, of professors, the sharing of library materials on peace studies and the establishment of a permanent educational satellite system that would join colleges around the world to create a global classroom. The satellite hook-up in February will, if successful show, university presidents around the world that the time has come for this program to be put into place.

How can you be sure that the courses, which are meant to further understanding of arms control negotiations, will be taught objectively, given the suspicions between the United States and the Soviet Union?

If you have the same syllabus, the same reading list—I think it is at least as good as sections in US universities where students in different sections don't get the same instructors but everybody still takes the course. I think it's as near to an objective course that can be. It even goes a little farther—the questions and answers will be in common. But, I admit, it's not going to be the same everywhere but it is clearly the most symmetrical course that we can take on these touchy subjects.

THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM

Space U. is set to soar in opening skies to study

Program seeks 100 pioneer international students

By ODILE ISRAELSON
in Cambridge, Mass., USA

WHILE OTHER SCHOOL boys searched their pockets for marbles to play at the playground, Peter Diamandis kept his eyes on the sky dreaming of one day living in space.

"Having my future and my family in space, focusing on driving humanity into orbit, into space on a permanent basis, that was my dream since grammar school," says Diamandis, now 26, who is studying for a medical degree at Harvard Medical School at the same time he is seeking Ph.D. degree in aerospace engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). "It was an interest which became a passion."

He has transformed his passion for space into an incredible adventure by creating the first educational program completely focused on space.

Thirty years after the 1957 launching of the Soviet Sputnik, the first spacecraft ever to orbit the Earth, applications are available for the first summer program of the International Space University on the Cambridge campus of MIT.

The program hopes to attract 100 graduate students from around the world to become familiar with all aspects of space research and to design space projects that within 20 years they might actually implement in space.

The nine-week summer program will offer eight disciplines: Space Engineering, Space Policy and Law, Arts and Architecture, Human Performance in Space, Space Science, Management and Business, Space Manufacturing, and Satellite Applications.

"We are looking for people who want to hit the floor running," says Diamandis. "Our goal is to handpick the next generation of leaders, people who have the ability and the drive and let them develop some long-lasting ties. People who meet here now will become heads of space agencies or corporations, and they will have known each other through the university."

The university is the product of the Space Generation Foundation founded by Diamandis, Todd Hawley, 26, a graduate student at George Washington University, and Robert Richards, 29, a Canadian engineer; to promote space awareness among those born since the beginning of the space age—the space generation.

"There will be a day when there are facilities for universities in space," says Diamandis. "We wanted to be the first university to have a real space com-

ponent."

Other universities have established space-related programs, but none have one comprehensive curriculum, he said.

Supporters include I.W. Pryke, head of the Washington office of the European Space Agency; former US Air Force Secretary Dr. John L. McLucas; Arthur C. Clarke, author of 2001: A Space

Odyssey; and Hermann Oberth, whose 1926 book *The Rocket in Interplanetary Space* helped established the ground work for the development of modern rockets. ISU board member Dr. Byron K. Lichtenberg, a former US astronaut and MIT graduate, will advise on human performance in space.

ISU has raised US\$400,000 of the \$1.1 million needed to complete the first summer session in 1988. The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has provided \$50,000. For each student the summer fee will be \$10,000, covering all costs, including room and board. Only students able to find a sponsor within his or her country will be eligible. Canada, Germany, Italy, Israel, Japan, the Soviet Union and Sri Lanka have already con-

firmed the sponsorship of students to MIT this summer.

The founders hope to have raised nearly \$23 million and offer a full-year degree on a permanent campus by 1992, scheduled to be the international space year.

In his book, *Space, The Next Twenty-Five Years*, California space researcher Thomas McDonough notes that space may soon become the United States of the 21st century. "There will be colonies of factories," he writes, "colonies of Mormons and Seventh-day Adventists, vegetarians, Chinese, Socialists, Libertarians, and every other group looking for a new start."

Diamandis is betting that among the colonists will be graduates of International Space University. ♦

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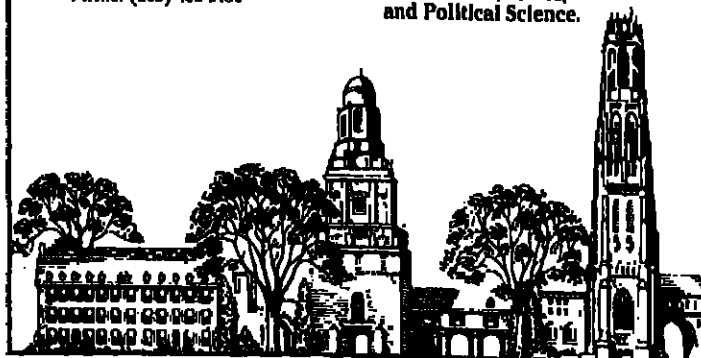
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THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM

School for living in peace in N. Ireland

Aim of integrated college is accord among Protestants and Catholics

BY CHRIS RYDER
in Belfast, Northern Ireland

ANXIOUS PARENTS in Northern Ireland are lining up to enroll their offspring, including infants far from school age, in a school that is constructing a new building in the hills east of Belfast and aims to teach Protestants and Roman Catholics to live together in peace.

Lagan College, named for the river that courses through the capital of the strife-torn country, started six years ago with 28 students in a disused Boy Scout hut as an experiment in teaching peace.

More than 2,500 people have died since 1968 in Protestant-Catholic violence involving British security forces and the Irish Republican Army.

In a land with schools so segregated that few Protestants and Roman Catholics see each other in class, about 450 students, almost equally divided between the religions, now attend Lagan. They range from first-grade pupils to sixth formers at the end of their secondary careers.

"We give our young people of differing religions not only the opportunity to meet each other but also to see adults working together and parents cooperating in a way that many have never witnessed before," said Terence

Chris Ryder reports for *The London Sunday Times* from Belfast.

Flanagan, liberal Protestant headmaster who directs the 31-teacher staff.

A 12-year-old Lagan Protestant girl who had never met a Catholic returned home from a visit with a Catholic classmate to report with some surprise:

"Julie is a Catholic, Daddy. So are all her brothers and sisters and her parents. But they're very nice and they don't mind I'm not a Catholic."

For three years, parents battling three centuries of sectarian hatred raised about US\$500,000 in donations, including money from backyard barbecue benefit parties, to keep an integrated Lagan growing.

After the third year, Lagan College achieved "maintained status," meaning the British government started providing Lagan's operating cost—about \$150,000 annually—and 85 percent of its capital expenditure.

At least five other similar schools have started in Northern Ireland, with a dozen more projected before 1990. A charitable trust seeks to raise funds to promote more integrated education.

Parents anxious to get their youngsters out of schools that teach only the



Hope for the next generation.

Catholic or the Protestant side of life in Northern Ireland have lined up to apply as far off as the class of 1999 for the limited number of places in the Lagan secondary department, said Headmaster Flanagan.

"The problems in this community are not going to be solved by this generation," said Harry Castles, a Protestant management consultant with a son and daughter in Lagan. "But with a little help along the way, such as that pro-

vided by Lagan, there is a good chance the next generation might."

Attending Lagan and the other integrated institutions are 1,000 of the country's 350,000 students. Half of Northern Ireland's students are Roman Catholics.

In theory, the government provides schools for all children, regardless of religious affiliation. In practice, the state system is virtually entirely Protestant. The Roman Catholic Church operates its own schools. The church has refused to appoint chaplains to Lagan and the other integrated institutions and to offer sacraments to youngsters not attending church schools.

"A Catholic education is the essential preparation for a Catholic way of life," says a church spokesman.

But in many parishes, youngsters at integrated schools also attend religious Saturday or Sunday schools and receive sacraments.

In an integrated school, a student may elect a general course in religion explaining Christianity without a Protestant or Catholic bias.

This same neutral approach exists in teaching Irish history. Schools ordinarily explain the victory of Protestant William of Orange over the Catholic James 2nd in the Battle of the Boyne in July, 1690, as a clash of good guys versus bad. The villain depends on which sect is telling the story. Lagan tries simply to lay out the facts.

Resistance to integration is not confined to the Catholic church. Dr. Ian Paisley, head of the Free Presbyterian Church and a vocal opponent of the Catholic Church, has set up his own chain of independent schools to "protect the Protestant heritage."

His effort illustrates the long road reconciliation must travel.

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CURRENTS

BY BRAD DURHAM



A conservation hit

The movie reviews are raves. The World Scout Bureau says, "Plan to show it as part of the educational curriculum." The King Mahendra Conservation Trust says, "Extremely educative." The Agriculture Ministry of St. Lucia simply says, "Excellent production." They're talking about a film entitled *Conservation*. Though it probably won't contend for box office receipts with *Rambo*, the 28-minute color film is the World Wildlife Fund's first comprehensive conservation film to go on general release for educational, home and broadcast use.

The film, part of WWF's worldwide campaign to raise conservation awareness, covers crucial world environmental issues, including the shrinking polar ice caps, the depletion of the world's tropical forests, acid rain, desertification and the population explosion.

Joining sundry wildlife in the world's most exotic, yet troubled regions is the film's leading man, the Duke of Edinburgh, who is president of WWF International. He opens the film by saying, "The natural system is our life-support

system, and if we damage any part of it we are putting our own survival at risk." Though it is unlikely that movie buffs will echo the Duke's words 50 years from now, two million people in over 55 countries have seen *Conservation*.

Procreation vs. the purse

Instead of condoms, the IUD or the hackneyed excuse, "Not tonight, honey, I've got a headache," recent evidence from Asia suggests that economic development may be the best contraceptive.

A new study, compiled in a joint effort by the East-West Center's Population Institute, Nihon University, and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, has found that the rapid pace of economic growth in Indonesia, Korea and Thailand is in part a consequence of successful family planning efforts. There is ample evidence that the transition from a rural, illiterate society with high birth and death rates to a predominately urban, educated society with low birth and death rates is happening more rapidly in these countries than it did in Japan. The fertility study cites natural forces inherent in economic advancement as well as a concerted effort on the part of Southeast Asians to consider the financial consequences of more people.

The experts report that lower birth rates have affected these countries' age structure, their investment in schooling, the level of saving and the growth of per capita income and gross national product. "The reduction of fertility does raise the rate of economic growth, at least for a period of several decades, and contributes to permanently higher living standards," says the survey.

Fathers by proxy

By spending excessive hours at the office, power-lunching with business associates and socializing at night with workmates they might not even particularly like, Japanese fathers are losing an important

popularity contest—the one at home.

The Japanese government recently found that of 1,000 children ranging in age from 10 to 15, only 40 percent claimed to really like their fathers. The rest hemmed and hawed and were noncommittal. Five percent even said they disliked their fathers. This figure falls far short of the 80 percent of children who gave their fathers favorable ratings in the United States and West Germany. About 2 percent of the Western children said they disliked the "man of the house." As the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which first reported the survey, lamented, "This is a sad but understandable comment."



The average Japanese father spends 36 minutes per day with his children.

Twenty-eight percent of the Japanese children surveyed said their dads never took them for a walk or joined their games. Eight percent of the West German children and less than 3 percent of the US youngsters said the same. It's no wonder that many of the Japanese kids, when asked about their relationship with their fathers, scratched their heads and replied, "Who?"

UNDERCURRENT

Resourceful rogue

Because of their newfound journalistic freedoms with *glasnost*, Soviet journalists have been putting the fear of God, so to speak, in government officials who harbor skeletons in their closets. An ingenious scoundrel named Sidenko, *Izvestia* reports, has taken advantage of this state of bureaucratic angst by posing as a journalist, sending jittery officials scurrying for things to appease him.

Sidenko's freeloading came to an end recently when he impersonated a reporter in the Soviet city of Karoganda, flashed his forged official press identification, and coaxed the



police department to lend him a car. The car was lent and Sidenko was gone—until he was finally nabbed later by embarrassed officials. It turned out that this wasn't the first gig of the artful prankster. He had already posed as a correspondent for *Pravda* for an apartment, and as a reporter for the public health paper *Meditsinskaya Gazeta* to acquire a doctor's smock from a hospital, apparently for another madcap caper.

The words which bring Soviet officials quickest to shaky knees of subservience these days: "Pravda's outside and they want to have a little chat."

LETTERS

Sri Lankan ethnic problem

As a Sri Lankan, I wish to comment on Tharrie Vittachi's article, *Despite Sri Lankan accord, dangers still loom*, in the September *WorldPaper*. Vittachi castigates Mrs. Bandaranaike, Tamil Nadu politicians and the Tamil Tigers; but he tries to portray the present President J.R. Jayewardene as a man of wisdom next only to the biblical Solomon. Post-independent Sri Lankan political history reveals that Jayewardene also had played a sinister role in fueling ethnic tensions in the 1950s. Tamils were humiliated twice (in 1977 and 1983) during his 10-year rule.

If a US president deprives the civic rights of his political opponent by foul means and continues to rule the country for 10 years without holding a general election to the nation's legislature, you can only accuse him of being a dictator. Jayewardene did just that in 1980 to Mrs. Bandaranaike. Though he had traveled to other world capitals, Jayewardene hasn't visited the war-torn Jaffna region for 10 years. That shows his "sincerity" in settling the ethnic problem.

Sachi Sri Kantha
Tokyo, Japan

Appeal for malnourished

The Christian Community Development Center, Inc. (CCDC), is a newly organized family and community welfare agency which generally aims to promote community malnourished children. One of our various programs is a day care center where care is provided for 80 indigent children of working parents, 3 to 6 years old. Informal education and a feeding program are being extended through the center.

Being a newly opened and poorly funded agency, we are experiencing big problems in meeting the children's feeding needs. We appeal to your readers for your generous support and assistance for the day care center. We would greatly appreciate old but usable clothing, shoes and toys for our malnourished children.

Thank you. We will be looking forward to the response.

Mrs. Leonisa R. Roma
Project Manager, Christian
Community Development Center
Mandaue City, Philippines

Word from admiral

I thought the article on the "Gorbachev Gambit" in the October issue of *WorldPaper* was extremely well done. In fact, I thought all of the articles were well worthwhile. I encourage you to keep up the good work of educating free world publics.

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, US Navy (ret.)
Arlington, VA, USA

WorldPaper welcomes letters to the editor. Because space is limited, the editors reserve the right to edit for length.

Write: *WorldPaper*
424 World Trade Center
Boston, MA 02210 USA

WORLD DIARY

A tale of two systems in reverse

BY CROCKER SNOW, JR.

The absolute irony of what, let's agree, was "the fortnight felt 'round the world'" cannot be overlooked or understated. In the last days of October and the first days of November, the most advanced and ideologically opposed blocs of nations on earth experienced a form of role reversal of a magnitude not witnessed in this century.

Here you had in the Western world of free-market capitalism a collapse of stock market values that traveled from Tokyo to London to New York to Sydney to Paris and back again in a matter of hours, and then began to bounce and fluctuate wildly in a worldwide game of chance, as speculators cried for governments to take charge. Simultaneously, and quite unconnected with this turn of events, the two giant centers of the non-monolithic communist world devoted to state control of production and all forms of economic life were engaged in endorsing leaders and programs dedicated to easing such controls and allowing free-market forces more play.

The phenomena, the first spontaneous and the second pre-programmed, took place in the same 10-day period. The significance of this far exceeds this month's scheduled summit talks in Washington on nuclear arms control.

The market crash that occurred on Oct. 19 and reverberated instantaneously throughout the stock markets of the free world was an indictment of the excesses and the essence of the free-market system as it has been widely practiced—and prosecuted—in recent go-go years.

It has highlighted what US author and social satirist Tom Wolfe has captured in his just published and aptly titled book, *Bonfire of the Vanities*.

It can be fairly regarded as an indictment of what George Bush once called the "voodoo economics" of Ronald Reagan. As the British daily, *The Guardian*, put it, "There is no doubt that the buck ultimately stops at the White House. President Reagan's failure to do anything positive to reduce the US budget deficit is finally reaping its grim reward."

This is a fair political place to put the blame. But the issue goes way beyond political leadership.

"The market collapse heralds the end of the neo-conservative

revolution," writes Canadian commentator (and *WorldPaper* associate editor) Tony Westell. "The neo-conservatives have said, in essence, that economic decisions should be made by markets, not governments. But while markets are good at allocating resources when buyers and sellers behave rationally, people are not always rational. They are led by rising markets to seek profits by speculation and by falling markets to cut losses by panic selling. This has happened repeatedly in history, but every generation must learn anew the lessons that markets can operate efficiently only in a stable environment created and to some degree controlled by government."

Indeed, the financial crisis and panic of late October indicates that Western capitalism is perilously close to contracting a case of AIDS. Its immune system to yesterday's extremes of excessive consumption, speculation, deficit financing, floating exchange rates and escalating trade surpluses and deficits is deficient when coupled with the new immediacy of money flow and information availability. If the clinical virus AIDS has so far proven tragically fatal, the financial virus may not be. But it is surely and sadly debilitating. The communist world, by contrast, is fully energized.

The 13th Party Congress in Beijing was a much more ringing endorsement of the Deng Hsiao-ping line of economic reform than many China watchers on the periphery expected. The ease with which Zhao Ziyang, Deng's handpicked successor, was endorsed as general secretary of the Communist Party and the stated recognition for the first time that the economic reforms will mean some form of political reform were evidence of the depth of what the Chinese a half dozen years ago first cautiously called market socialism.

There was more than rhetorical evidence of this. At the Congress, one Guan Guangmei, an entrepreneur from the provincial city of Benxi, once criticized for capitalist tendencies in leasing food shops from the government and profiting from them, was elevated to the

special status as the only one of 2000 delegates writing her own views daily on the front page of the *Workers Daily*. And much attention was paid to a boldly capitalist-style initiative to attract tourists and sell land on Hainan Island. Simultaneously, while the Hong Kong options market faced full collapse, the Bank of China emerged as one of three financial institutions that provided a life ring in the form of an infusion of new capital.

On the exact same day, Nov. 2, when Prime Minister Zhao was appointed general secretary and surprised all with a free-wheeling exchange with the international press at the Great Hall of the People on Beijing's Tein An Men Square, Mikhail Gorbachev addressed 5000 Soviet officials and assorted foreign dignitaries on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution at the Kremlin Palace.

He pushed his commitment to *perestroika* (restructuring) up a notch with a wide-ranging review of the failures of the past and need for Soviet society to adapt to a rapidly changing world economy.

"For all the profound contradictions of the contemporary world, for all the radical differences among countries that comprise it, it is interrelated, interdependent and integral," Gorbachev declared.

The important superpower arms talk that tops the agenda in Washington this month is only a concomitant of a much more significant dynamic affecting the economies of industrialized countries of the capitalist and communist worlds alike.

Western materialism has contracted a dangerous virus, and is losing some of its muscle tone. Orthodox Eastern socialism is trying to bulk up on some key free-market vitamins to enhance growth and development and reduce its percentage of body fat.

What's most notable of all is that both changes are happening simultaneously. ♦



COMPUTERS: HOW LONG CAN DEC KEEP FLYING HIGH? PAGE 78

BusinessWeek

GLOBAL PROFITS

How 1,000 companies in 60 countries did in 1986

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Banking 87 A year of cautious optimism

"The Central Bank's main pre-occupation for 1988 is that the pricing of banking services is done correctly and adequately, and that the spreads are reasonable enough to allow banks to grow and consolidate their capital bases. This approach leads us to flexible interest rates, and ensures that the existing dialogue among bankers be given its proper merits."

By Rasim Rahim
Star Staff Writer

BANKING IN Jordan dates back to 1969 with the endorsement of the first banking law in the Kingdom. With the birth of the Central Bank of Jordan in 1963 and what followed it in amendments in 1968, the year 1971 witnessed the endorsement of a permanent law for Jordanian banks. Late in 1975 three amendments were attached to the law.

As of 1988 a new banking law is just around the corner, promising a new era in the history of the country's banks.

In the following report we take a ride on the 'boat of Jordanian banking', hoping that we can at least get a bite out of their catch for 1987. The report, an interview with Dr. Maher Shukri, does not answer all the questions; it however keeps the door wide open by pinpointing a few characteristics of Jordanian banking during the year 1987.

1987 was a better year than 1986. "The rate of deposits was higher and money supply was higher in 1987," said Dr. Maher Shukri, deputy-governor of the Central Bank of Jordan. "During 1987 we observed a more relaxed liquidity situation and a more relaxed banking liquidity ratio," said Dr. Shukri.

He added that there were no problems in meeting liquidity requirements or capital to deposit ratios. "Credit," he said, "increased substantially at a rate parallel to the increase in deposits. Banks were less conservative than they were in 1986." "However credit distribution during 1987 indicated that there was a conservative channeling of funds on the part of banks to serve their various sectors and operations. The risk-taking element was still subdued in 1987 owing to the prevailing economic conditions," said Dr. Shukri.

According to Dr. Shukri Jordanian banks abide by the Central Bank's instructions, with a few exceptions here and there. "Banks," he said, "were paying higher rates than the maximum imposed by the Central Bank on deposits." "There was the contravention of such rates, and that is actually against the trend to produce rate," said Dr. Shukri.

"Usually the Central Bank fixes the maximum rate on deposits, services and credits. Each bank is expected to abide within the framework of its policy, to pay taxes, build provisions and distribute dividends. In this regard we noticed that banks were not pricing their services properly, especially in the interest rate sector, which caused the spread to narrow at the expense of their profitability," said Dr. Shukri.

Interest rates, Floating Vs. regulated

According to Dr. Shukri the Central Bank's position is to introduce gradual flexibility into the interest rate structure; thus giving the banks enough time to do their homework as far as pricing is concerned. This will be done through-out 1988.

"First of all," he added, "this process will be introduced by a start-up, as from 1 January 1988.

of a secondary market for government securities issued by the Central Bank for the account of the Treasury; whereby the Central Bank will start trading in these securities on the basis of the yield count, which is supposed to move subject to the supply and demand of securities."

"A bank's liquidity," said Dr. Shukri, "is composed of inter-bank deposits, cash and government securities." "Accordingly," he said, "securities are essential to point out of discussion. By this action the Central Bank will be able to get a direct feeling of the market regarding the interest rate structure."

"This action," he said, "will be

"Any action, which impedes the banks' ability to capitalize their profits, is not favoured by the Central Bank. The Central Bank's main philosophy is that banks should be able to strengthen their capital by either issuing capital or adding to their already existing capitals."

followed by other policy steps aiming mainly at increasing the flexibility of the interest rate determination in the market." "Paralleled with this action the Central Bank will be trying to neutralize any legal or legislative impediment toward this end," said Dr. Shukri.

He further added that banks are not happy about the maximum rate because they claim that the maximum rate does not allow a bank to differentiate among different risks. "Actually it does," said Dr. Shukri. "The secret," he said, "is in determining or fixing the cost of funds and reducing it by 2 per cent as compared with maximum lending rate."

"Then the spread can be adjusted in that a bank can charge different rates for different risks. When the spread is too thin, it is for the benefit of the bank." "Banks should be functioning at less regulation and more competition. If banks pay the maximum rate they hurt themselves. Competition has to be self-regulated by the banks," said Dr. Maher Shukri.

"During 1987 banks were able to clean up their balance sheets and strengthen their provisions. Now they are in a position to resume their normal activities for 1988 at a much stronger base than that of 1987."

"On a four-year scale we could say that:

1984-1987	was a period of consolidations;
1987	was a period of cautious optimism;
1988	is hoped to be the 'year of optimism'... better to say the 'year of prudence'."

The Banking Law

According to Dr. Shukri the Central Bank's approach in amending the banking law is primarily aimed at bringing those laws as much as possible in line with the international banking acts drawing on the local experience.

"The factor," he said, "is in the banking ratios. Jordan cannot

afford to have ratios which are weaker than the rest of the world internally or externally". Dr. Shukri said, "Jordan, as an LDC country, should have more preservative banking ratios."

The phenomenon of economic implications is different from one country to another, however the natures of risks are very similar. "Our economy is subject to market forces," said Dr. Shukri.

On the banking services issue, Dr. Shukri said, "commercial banks are allowed to give and practice all promotional banking services. Investment banks, as well, are expected to promote banking services. Islamic banks are practically investment banks and shareholders at the same time, and conduct their services in accordance with the principles of the Islamic Sharia."

"Banks," he said, will not be expected to diversify or provide non-banking services because until now, banks have not provided a full range of banking services.

On the issue of the Jordanian bank's role in the country's development Dr. Shukri said, "Banks should introduce the proper instruments for the channeling of funds, to develop medium-term funds such as credit loans and corporate bonds."

"The rate," he added, "which banks give to promote the development sector, exceeds half the expenditures outlay." "Banks are the funding agents of the private sector. They indirectly participate in promoting the country's development. The premise is done by channeling fund distribution," said Dr. Shukri.

"The banking law," he said, "aims basically at introducing regulations to maintain sound and healthy banks and banking systems. The factor lies in their credit exposures."

"Banks are worried about short funds, but with proper incentives, such as funding instruments and re-financing mechanisms, they will be more in a position to promote development," said Dr. Shukri.

One form of the bank's collective



Dr. Maher Shukri, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan

"When I was on the other side of the fence, I used to grumble over regulations.... but now I believe in the 'dialogue'. The Central Bank developed its regulations whereas banks should believe that the banking system is working for them."

Banks should also carry out this continuous dialogue targeted at understanding their problems in the interest of the country."

try. Taxes, paid by the banks in 1986, ranged between 17 and 18 per cent. "As opposed to 50 per cent, or what they pay in actual taxes, they are not paying enough, therefore they should not grumble about it," said Dr. Shukri.

Dr. Shukri's last message was that "Banks will have to get together to reach common grounds, and the only institution to help them do this is the Association of Banks in Jordan, 'of course talking within the concept of self-regulated banking'. The Association of Banks is a forum for 'this dialogue': banks among themselves and banks with the Central Bank of Jordan."

Who is Dr. Maher Shukri? Dr.

"It is not so drastic to try to develop the law; whereas banks will be protected and assume more responsibility toward the community and the economy as a whole, and can be responsible to their depositors and shareholders."

Shukri's wealth of banking experience comes from his previous jobs as a Managing Director of the Finance and Credit Corp., as a lecturer at the Centre for Industrial Development and as a Central Banker.

Banking was not Dr. Shukri's field of study. He has a bachelor degree in Economic and Political Science from the American University of Cairo and a doctorate degree in Economics from the Sorbonne University in France.

Recalling the lecture which he

to debt does not exceed three per cent, as a 68.9 per cent of cost is less than 6 per cent and as a 43.1 per cent ratio to cost is above than 6 per cent.

Dr. Shukri questioned, while touching on the deficit financing issue, whether the deficit should be off-set by external or internal lending — indicating that during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 the deficit was and is still being financed by the internal public debt as compared to the decreasing rate of foreign public debt.

Market down by 21%

By Rasim Rahim
Star Financial Market Analyst

HANDLING ACTIVITIES at the Amman Financial Market, for the week, Tuesday-Monday, 15-21 December 1987, featured lower trading activities than that of last week. Prices were down, and a horizontal slow trading was observed all over the week. Vertically, sectoral handling recorded high averages for the insurance sector, with the industrial sector in the lead. The overall market position fell by over 21 per cent from last week, indicated by a drop of 21.83 per cent in the trading volume, a fall in the number of shares by 21.24 per cent and a low 15.70% in the number of contracts from that of last week.

This week a total of 1,227,207 shares were handled, recording a total market volume of JD 1,783,662 divided among 1,707 contracts, bringing the handling average to JD 356,732 per day.

The shares of 64 companies were traded, classified according to sector as follows: 18 banks, 11 insurance, 6 services and 29 industrials. Trading in the regular market was distributed among sectors as follows:

Share of Market	Banks	Insurance	Services	Industrials
This Week	23.30%	9.23%	1.37%	66.10%
Last Week	26.57%	4.15%	1.52%	67.76%

20 companies gained (4 banks, 3 insurance, 2 services and 11 industrials):

	Closing at JD	Up from JD
— Cairo Bank/Amman	21,000	21,000
— General Insurance Co.	2,180	1,800
— General Investments Co.	1,800	1,450
— Paper & Cardboard Fac.Co.	3,220	3,140
— Universal Chemical Ind.Co.	1,340	1,270
— Wool Industries Co.	.720	.690

29 companies lost (9 banks, 4 insurance, 2 services and 14 industrials).

	Closing at JD	Down from JD
— Real Estate Fin.Co./Refco	14,000	15,000
— Philadelphia Insurance Co.	.700	.730
— National Steel Industry Co.	2,790	2,810
— Chemical Industries Co.	1,300	1,270
— National Industries Co.	.500	.510
— General Mining Co.	1,500	1,550

15 companies had no change in their shares prices (5 banks, 4 insurance, 2 services and 4 industrials).

— Arab Bank Ltd	JD	122.00
— Jordan Insurance Co.	JD	13,900
— Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD	2,170
— Intermediate Petrochemicals	JD	1,100

Prominent firms whose shares were traded out of 18 banks, 11 insurance, 6 services and 29 industrials:

	Share of Sector	Share of Market
— Arab Bank Ltd.	35.89%	8.36%
— Jordan-French Insurance	55.72%	5.4%
— Jordan Sulpho-Chemicals	10.40%	6.87%
— Ala-Din Industries	14.40%	9.52%
— Textiles & Weaving Factories	13.57%	8.97%
— Intermediate Petro-Chemicals	13.80%	8.99%

In the over-the-counter market, a total of 780,295 shares were handled at a market volume of JD 313,147.

The following is a representation of the sectoral handling per day of the total market, compared to last week (in percentage terms):

Sector	Banks	Insurance	Services	Industrials
15-12	26.44	1.87	3.65	68.04
16-12	17.52	8.01	.31	73.66
19-12	16.86	10.05	1.18	71.91
20-12	24.06	17.18	.96	57.80
21-12	34.05	7.17	.41	58.37

INDEX:

This week	23.79	8.86	1.40	65.6
Last week	24.58	4.25	1.36	69.81
Variance	-.79%	+4.61%	+.04%	-4.21%
Total:				-.35%

Industrial production Index

AMMAN (Star) — According to the Central Bank's monthly statistical bulletin for October 1987, the Preliminary Revised Index is 215.5 (revision was applied to include polish and base (1979-100: linking the old index to the new one), electricity, batteries, paper and card board, phosphate, petroleum products, construction materials, chemicals, plastic and sponges, footwear & leather, clothes & textiles, cigarettes & matches, fodder, alcoholic drinks, soft drinks, and food items were weighted as follows: 12.8, 1.0, 1.6, 17.8, 13.0, 18.9, 6.7, 1.7, 1.6, 2.6, 12.2, 3.1, 1.1, 3.0, and 2.9 respectively.

According to the bulletin, the industrial production of principal industries for October 1987, distributed into its categories as electricity (in mill kwh.), liqued batteries (in 1,000 batteries), paper and cardboard, petroleum products, metallic pipes, iron, cement, detergents, chemical acids, fertilizers (in 1,000 of tonnes), sole leather & wool (in one tonne), upper leather (in 1,000 sq.ft), spinning (in one tonne), textiles (in 1,000 yards), cigarettes (in mill elg), alcoholic drinks (in 1,000 litres), fodder, potash, phosphate (in 1,000 of tonnes) was computed as follows: 276.0, 4.6, 1.8, 204.1, 2.0, 17.6, 247.6, 1.0, 108.3, 58.7, 2.6, 178.1, 192.0, 180.0, 394.8, 473.2, 3.9, 117.8 and 622.8 respectively.

Vessels arriving Aqaba Port under Gargour Shipping Agency Red Sea area services

Serving area	Name of line	Name of vessel	Arrival date
A) FAREAST- (CONTAINER+ RORO+ CONV.)	Mitsui O.S.K. Lines	-Elli -Christoffer- -Oldendorff -Eastern- -Splendour -Comman 1	29.12.87 17.01.88 24.01.88 02.02.88
B) SOUTH EUROPE- (CONTAINER+ RORO+ CONV.)	Sudan Shipping Line Ltd.	-White Nile 9/87 -Blue Nile 10/87	01.01.88 21.01.88
C) U.S.A.- (CONTAINER+ RORO+ CONV.)	Sudan Shipping Line Ltd.	-Gedaref 5/87 -Khartoum 4/87	28.12.87 25.01.88
D) SOUTH EUROPE/ EAST AFRICA- (CONTAINER+ RORO)	Lloyd Triestino Line	-Dulno 12/87 -Sletiana 1/88 -Dulno 2/88	03.01.88 30.01.88 19.02.88
E) U.S.A.-CANADA-AUSTRALIA (BULK)	Gearbulk Line	-Hallam Venture -Arrow Gdynia -Gortys	29.12.87 04.01.88 27.01.88
F) RED SEA- (CONVENTIONAL)	Pan Arab Line	-Albiruni -Aldrisi	05.01.88 20.01.88

EURO-DEPOSIT RATES

	\$	DEM	LIT	FF	DFL	SF	Yen	Sterling Pound
1M	8	3 11/16	11 3/4	9 1/8	4 9/16	3 5/8	4 3/8	1M 8 5/8
2 M	7 7/8	3 5/8	11 7/8	9 1/8	4 11/16	3 11/16	4 1/4	2 M 8 13/16
3 M	7 13/16	3 5/8	11 7/8	9 1/8	4 3/4	3 11/16	4 1/4	3 M 8 15/16
6 M	7 13/16	3 5/8	11 7/8	9 1/4	4 7/8	3 11/16	4 1/4	4 M 9 1/16
9 M	7 13/16	3 5/8	12.0	9 3/8	4 7/8	3 11/16	4 1/4	5 M 9 1/8
1 Year	7 7/8	3 11/16	12.0	9 3/8	4 15/16	3 11/16	4 1/4	6 M 9 1/8
2 Years	7 15/16	4.00						9M 9 7/16
3 Years	8 1/2	4 11/16						1 Year 9 1/2
4 Years	8 3/4	5.00						
5 Years	9.00	5 3/8						
6 Years	9 1/4							

Source: Finance and Credit Corp., Amman - Jordan.

EXCHANGE RATES

JD (Fils)

	BUY	SELL	BUY	SELL
SR	91.1	92.1	\$	328.6 334.2
LBL	0.74	0.77	£	603.5 615.9
SRL	9.2	9.4	DEM	201.8 206.5
IRD	185	190	SF	247.9 254.7
KWD	1250	1260	FF	59.6 61
EGP	155	162	Yen	258.6 265.3
UED	93	94	DFL	179.5 183.3
QR	93.5	94.5	SKR	55.5 56.8
OMR	910	920	LIT	27.4 28
BHD	900	910	BLF	98.6 98.4

Source: Ad-Dustour daily, 23 December 1987.

GOLD IN JORDAN

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Tuesday, 22 December 1987 were as follows:

18 ct., JD 4,000 per gramme
21 ct., JD 4,500 per gramme
24 ct., JD 5,500 per gramme
One kilogramme (9999) JD 5150,000
Ounce..... JD 171,000
(31 grammes x 10 c.m.)
Gold Sterling..... JD 37,000
(8 grammes)
Rashadi Pound.... JD 32,500
(Seven grammes)

Source: Youself Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

GOLD IN EUROPE

LONDON (AP) — Late gold prices (in US dollars per troy ounce):

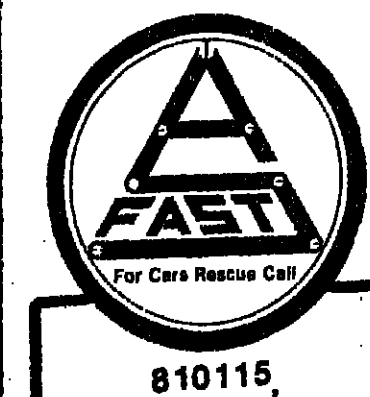
London	482.40	Bid
Paris	483.84	Fixed
Frankfurt	482.19	Fixed
Zurich	483.60	Bid
Hong Kong	482.80	Bid

Foreign trade

ACCORDING TO figures at the Public Statistics Department total Jordanian imports of foreign commodities decreased by 7 per cent during the first eight months of 1987, as compared with the same period in 1986.

Total imports amounted to JD 519.8 millions, compared with JD 558.2 millions during the first eight months of 1986. Export, however, increased by 5 per cent over last year reaching JD 148.8 millions during the first eight months of 1987, compared with JD 141.7 millions during the same period in 1986.

Re-exported commodities also rose by 74 per cent over last year, amounting to JD 26.9 millions during the first eight months of this year, compared with JD 15.5 millions during the same period in 1986.



وزارة الاشغال العامة دائرة العطاءات الحكومية

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION ZARQA RUSEIFA WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECT CONTRACTS 3A & 4A

The Government Tenders Directorate invites experienced Jordanian contractors who have been prequalified by the Ministry of Public Works as first class for water and sewerage projects and contractors experienced and specialized in the field of water and sewerage projects from USAID Geographic Code 941 who wish to be prequalified for the construction of Zarqa Ruseifa Water and Wastewater Project Contracts 3A and 4A partially financed by the United States Agency for International Development "USAID".

The two Contracts consist of the supply and installation of Water and Sewerage networks of various diameters in Northern Parts of Zarqa.

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers pre-qualification form is obtainable from the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works for a non-refundable sum of JD 25.

The sealed envelope containing the fully completed form along with any other supporting documents are due at the Office of the Director of the Government Tenders Directorate not later than 12 noon Jordan local time on Tuesday 28/01/1988.

Director

The Government Tenders Directorate

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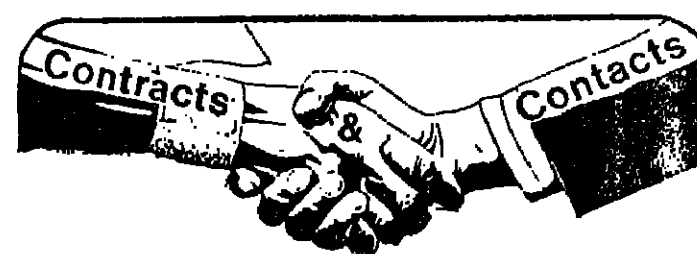
Pride in offering you the finest timepieces beautifully dressed in distinctive styling.

And, of course, Seiko's unsurpassed precision technology means unfailing accuracy.

In a wide selection of styles to suit your fancy, the Seiko "5" 21 jewel watch is the perfect complement to your fashion.

* Self-winding * Water resistant * Day-date calendar * Quality design * Shock resistant

SEIKO



• TENDER NO. Local /79/87. Supply of 180 paper rolls (type: 3M) high tensile. Tender documents are available at the Government Tenders Department for JD 25. Closing date: 5 January 1987.

• TENDER NO. 88/87. Supply of sets U.P.S 70 KVA for the Royal Jordanian. Tender documents are available at the R.J.'s offices at the Housing Bank Centre for JD 15. Tender bond: 10 per cent of bid value. Closing date: 4 January 1988.

• TENDER NO. 16/87. (Re-Invitation) Supply and installation of furniture, electrical appliances and medical equipment for the maternity & childhood centre/East of Wehdat. Tender documents are available at Urban Development Department for JD 15. Tender bond: JD 750. Closing date: 20 December 1987.

• TENDER NOS. 105/87, 120/87. Supply of 1) basket ball hydraulic set (mobile on wheels), and 2) push-button telephone sets for the University of Yarmouk. Tender documents are available at the Uni's Tenders Committee for JD 1 and 2 respectively. Tender bond: 5 per cent of bid value. Closing date: 30 December 1987.

• SUPPLY OF banker blanket policy (insurance on monetary assets) and buildings insurance policy for the Central Bank of Jordan. Local companies are invited to bid and should be administered by a Jordanian insurance company whose capital is not less than JD 700,000. Tender documents are available at the C.B.'s Supplies Division. Closing date: 31 December 1987.

• ROAD WORKS for the Sport City Suburb Housing Society at Al-Riba/Zarqa road — Sereen. Tender documents are available for JD 50 (contact: telephone 9986133). Tender bond: 10 per cent of bid value. Closing date: 31 December 1987.

• TENDER NO. 93/87. Construction of an extension to the control centre south of Amman / Um-Qasr and Al-Mugblain (area: 840 sq. metres). Tender documents are available at Jordan Electricity Authority for JD 25. Tender bond: JD 3500. Closing date: 6 January 1988.

• ASPHALT OVERLAYS (15,000 sq. metres) for Irbid Governorate. Tender documents are available at the Municipality for JD 20. Tender bond is a pre-requisite. Closing date: 29 December 1987.

• TENDER NO. 118/87. (Re-Invitation). Supply of metal sheets (sandwich panel — Insulated) for the Jordan Electricity Authority. Tender documents are available at the Authority for free. Tender bond: 5 per cent of bid value. Closing date: 6 January 1988.

• TENDER NOS. 141, 142, 143, 144 and 145/87. Supply of spare parts for trucks, compartments and green paint for the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Tender documents are available at the Co's offices / Jabal Amman, First Circle for JD 3, 3, 3 and 5 respectively. Closing date: 7 February 1988.

• TENDER NO. JEO/IFAD 87/87-2. Construction of metallic hanger (area: 1,250 sq. metres) at Thnnyaleh/Karak for the Jordan Co-Op. Org. Tender documents are available at the Org's Tenders Committee (Contact: Eng. Salem Abu Hassan, tech. adviser) for JD 50 as from 19 December 1987. Tender bond: JD 1200. Closing date: 26 December 1987.

• TENDER NO. 16/87. Supply of underwater pumps for the Water Authority of Jordan. Tender documents are available at the Authority's Tenders Dept., behind the Marriott Hotel, for JD 25. Closing date: 23 January 1987.

• TENDER NO. 6/88. Construction of a naval department and control tower at the Ports Corp. in Aqaba (area: 1600 sq. metres; tower: diam. 6.4 metres height: 70 metres). Tender documents are available at the Government Tenders Department as from 16 December 1987 for JD 60. Closing date: 31 December 1987.

• TENDER NO. 28/87. Supply of industrial vacuum loader for the Jordan Cement Factories Co. Tender documents are available at the Co's offices in Fhals for JD 40. Closing date: 20 January 1988.

• TENDER NO. 193/87. Painting of tankers and chimneys at the factories complex / Aqaba, for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Tender documents are available at the Co's Supplies Dept./Shmeisani, for JD 5. Closing date: 2 January 1988.

• ASPHALT WORKS at Kharja & Zuwalah Municipality/Irbid Governorate (25,000 sq. metres). Tender documents are available at the Municipality for JD 15. Closing date: 28 December 1987. Tender bond: 5 per cent of bid value.

• TENDER NO. 85/87. Supply of locally manufactured washing detergent (full automatic washers & manual washers) for the Civil Consumer Corp. Tender documents are available at the Corp's offices in Ain Ghehal for JD 5. Closing date: 3 January 1988.

• TENDER NO. 29/87. Supply of cement mill liners for the Jordan Cement Factories Co. Tender documents are available at the Co's offices in Fhals for JD 80. Closing date: 30 January 1988.

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Soviets honour commitments

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's successful visit to the Soviet Union this week assumes regional and even international importance in terms of its timing and the scope of issues it has covered during the King's talks with Soviet leaders.

Bilaterally, the visit is an important landmark on Jordanian-Soviet political, economical and cultural relations. But most of all the visit comes few weeks after the conclusion of the Extra-ordinary Arab Summit conference in Amman, which achieved accord and consensus; as the Gulf war escalates with Iranian aggression proliferating to encompass other Gulf countries and during the massive Palestinian uprising against the tyranny of the Israeli occupation forces.

King Hussein, speaking on behalf a united Arab nation that is determined to rid itself of an encroaching Iranian threat on the eastern borders of the Arab World and bring about a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute with the Palestinian suffering as its core and centre, has faithfully brought to the attention of Soviet leaders the determination of all Arabs to put an end to the Gulf war and to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

The Soviet Union, under Chairman Mikhail Gorbachev, has taken solid steps to meet Arab calls. It has reiterated its support for the convening of the international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict, while re-affirming its commitment to Security Council resolution number 598 on the Gulf war. In this sense the Soviet Union has stood up to its responsibility as a Superpower and as a true friend of the Arab world.

As a major world power the stand of the Soviet Union is of vital importance to the success of Arab efforts to end both the Gulf war and the 20-year-old occupation by Israel of Arab territories. The USSR is a permanent member of the Security Council, and it will honour its commitments in this venue and meet its responsibilities to prevent the expansion of the war in the Arab Gulf, while working hard for the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East.

The involvement of the Soviet Union in the peace-making process of this region is as important as de-polarizing the Middle East. In this regard the Soviets have shown every indication of willingness to assist and support Arab causes. From this perspective King Hussein's visit to Moscow assumes its regional value.

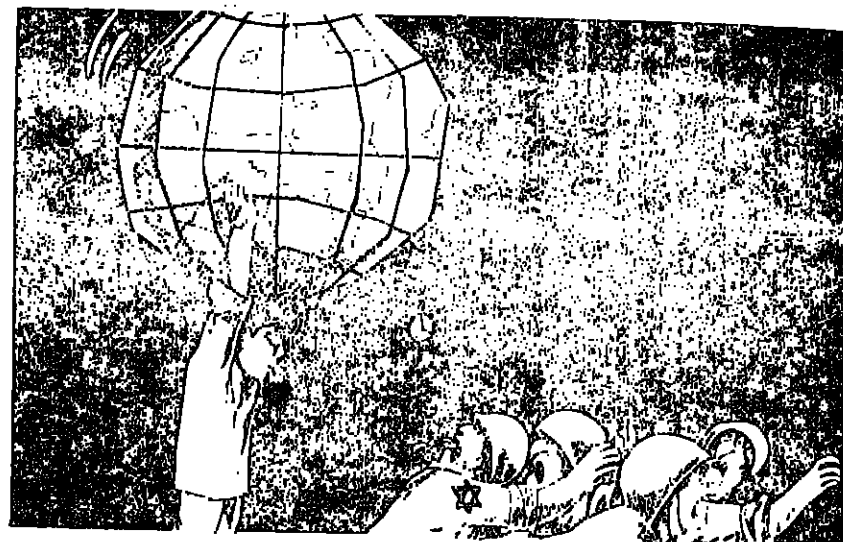
US stand on oppression

AS THE heroic uprising of the Arab population in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip continues and escalates for the third successive week, and as world capitals, in the east and the west, react in contempt against the Israeli racist atrocities, both Israel and the United States seem unmoved by the mounting international condemnation and calls for self-restraint. For while Israeli leaders threaten to take even tougher measure than the indiscriminate shooting of defenceless Palestinian women and children, the US administration has released a series of statements which almost place the aggressor and the victim on the same footing.

While we look with favour at the White House statement on the bloody events that have been taking place for the last three weeks inside the occupied territories, the American position on Israel's clamp down is still far from balanced and fair. The United States could have showed positive resilience during the deliberations which have been taking place inside the Security Council for the last few days, and which ended in reaching an exceptionally mild, weak and elusive resolution on Wednesday that called for restraint and for studies to be made of the situation in the occupied territories.

For genuine peace to be established in this explosive part, it is of the utmost importance that it be reached inside a UN-sponsored international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, including the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. Such conference has won world-wide recognition and it is the convening of the proposed meeting.

If the United States is really serious in its effort to stop the bloodshed, the way ahead is clear. Its main endeavour must concentrate on taking immediate steps to convene the conference. Otherwise, the United States should better maintain silence and let the Palestinians carry on with their sacred mission of liberation without shedding crocodile's tears.



Hani

Al-Qabas

Famine and the Ethiopian rebels



COMMENTARY
by Jonathan Power

Special to The Star

LONDON — When Eritrean rebels shot up a United Nations' food convoy last month everyone howled. But within a week or two, the Eritreans were back in media favour as the underdogs in Mengistu Haile Mariam's Marxist horror state. Once again, they became the down-trodden good guys rebelling against the militaristic dictatorial bad, the province suffering most from the severe drought, maltreated by the callously indifferent regime in Addis Ababa.

This is how the Eritreans were portrayed during the great famine of 1984-85, and it looks as if we are all set for a replay as hunger again sweeps Ethiopia. Eritrea and its sister dissident province Tigre were badly hit in the earlier famine, but not nearly as severely as the province of Wollo. But because of agitation in the media and the aid agencies, Wollo was short-changed. Eritrea and Tigre were fed, Wollo was left hungry.

Even as late as August 1986, the 'New York Times' was regretting that 'the authorities in Addis Ababa have been blocking aid shipments to Eritrea and Tigre' and in September, the 'Washington Post' announced that the Ethiopians had just started to allow relief into the rebel regions.

What in fact happened was rather different. It is true that, at the onset of the relief operation in early 1985, the Ethiopian government limited the United Nations' and voluntary agencies' activities in Tigre and Eritrea, where half the famine victims lived.

Not only was there drought but the provinces were torn by war. Government forces added to the ravages of nature by cutting down fruit orchards, burning grain supplies and shooting domestic animals. The outside agencies were allowed to distribute food only in official centres in the vicinity of government-controlled garrison towns.

Yet from the beginning, some of the voluntary agencies operating out of Sudan were able to get food in using the rebel relief organizations. Although Addis Ababa huffed and puffed and threatened retaliation, it did not follow through. By April 1985, when Maurice Strong, head of the UN office of Emergency Operations in Africa, which coordinated the international relief effort, made a field trip, he found Tigre and Eritrea were better off than the other hard-hit provinces of Wollo, Hararge and Gondar.

This was partly because of the extra effort made to get clandestine supplies in, but also because the Red Cross was now being allowed to move in food. This assessment by Strong and other UN officials did not change in the course of the year.

By July, voluntary agencies, in particular Oxfam and Save the Children Fund, were complaining to the United Nations that "the

population of Wollo is still starving because general ration distributions were inadequate and irregular." By and large, donors were concentrating too much effort in Eritrea and Tigre, but Wollo is where most people starved to death. The Eritreans have been in revolt against the government of Ethiopia for 25 years.

To favour them is tempting. They are a hard-working and talented people. And they have a case in their demand for independence. Nevertheless, it's by no means watertight. This time the Western countries pouring in aid need to keep a sense of proportion and perspective. A little history would help.

The Italians colonised Eritrea for 40 years in the early part of the century. Before that, Eritrea had not existed as a separate political entity. Then during their brief 1936-41 occupation of Ethiopia, the Italians reunited the country as it had been under the previous Amharic rule, bringing Eritrea again under the authority of Addis Ababa.

The British muddled Eritrea's status again when they ejected the Italians in 1941. They occupied it for 11 years, ruling it as a separate entity. In 1950, the United Nations debated Eritrea's future. Britain and the United States favoured federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia. Moscow took the side of Eritrean independence. Ironically, Moscow now sides with Addis Ababa and helps fund the war of suppression. The West got its way at the United Nations, with the proviso that Eritrea be given a large degree of autonomy and self-government.

The relationship between Addis Ababa and Eritrea could never be easy. Eritrean separatists continued to raise the anti, and in 1962 the federal government, under Emperor Haile Selassie, cracked down, abolished the federal institutions and integrated Eritrea fully into Ethiopia.

This triggered off civil war. At least a quarter of a million people have died as a consequence. The militants say they want independence, yet even sympathizers believe the majority would settle for autonomy. The situation is made even more complicated by bloody internecine warfare between the three Eritrean resistance groups.

Moreover, the group that is most effective on the battlefield, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, is Marxist-dominated. This is one situation outsiders could do well to steer clear of.

In international law, the central government probably has right on its side. But the Eritreans — and their fellow secessionists in Tigre, whose case is even weaker — will continue to try to pull on the heart strings of the Western world.

The West should make sure they get their fair share of aid, but beyond that it should not go. Mediating the war should be left to the Organization of African Unity. This is not a time to be choosing sides or be led by the nose by separatist sentimentality.

Jonathan Power is a foreign affairs analyst who specializes in Third World issues.

Rashad Bek

RASHAD BEK ordered his morning coffee. He looked for his packet of imported cigarettes and opened the morning newspaper on the society page. His dimly-lit office subbed him as he reclined against his chair in one of the room's corners. It was early morning, a cool and fresh morning and Rashad Bek was nervous and upset.

He secretary came in, put some files on the desk, mumbled something about a meeting with the minister at 10:30 and slipped away. From the window one could see other buildings and nothing more. Rashad Bek cared less for the view. He put the newspaper down and glanced with little interest at the files. He then looked for his pen in one of the desk's drawers and found it was cold in the office and he felt sleepy. The telephone was silent. In fact, everything was silent in his room. Rashad Bek was a lonely man.

A slim waiter brought the coffee and left. Rashad Bek did not even notice him. He looked again at the morning paper, this time carefully reading the obituaries, one by one. Newspapers meant a lot to him. He found solace in the confusion they created. Here was a dull piece about a seminar, below an interview with the president of the cattle farmers association, next to it a report on the achievements of the municipal council of an unknown town in the south. A motley collection of people and events, he thought.

Time passed slowly this morning. Rashad Bek felt compelled to review the bundle of papers sitting on his desk. Again he pulled his pen and opened the top file. He could hardly keep his eyes open as he read through the badly-written affidavits. People had to bring in their problems and dump them on him. This man wanted permission to add the words "and associates" to his company's name. Another requested to change the nature of his business from selling hardware to selling vegetables. A third demanded approval to default and declare bankruptcy. Rashad Bek sighed as he let his pen run freely through the piles of official papers.

10:25. He left his dark room and strolled to the minister's office. He passed by tens of people crowding the corridors as they carried their requests and affidavits from one room to the other. He could not feel his superiority today. He was too sleepy and too tired to enjoy it. The fact that most of these papers would end on his desk did not fill him with pride, rather, it made him depressed. Life, it seemed, was passing him by. Eventually papers were signed and released and their owners left the ministry to carry on with their lives. As for him, he was to stay in that rotten little office of his for many years.

By Dana Adams Schmidt
Star Washington Correspondent

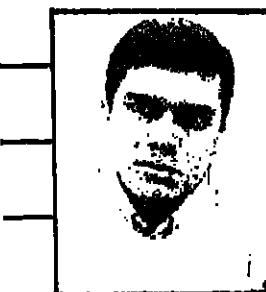
MANY OF the so-called "baby-boom generation," those born between the years 1945 and 1954, fell in the 1960's, and many 1970's had a habit of rejecting all religious affiliation. Life for them seemed full of angst and excitement that they did not feel a need for spiritual guidance.

But now, in the late 1980's, many of these people are experiencing what one observer called a "gentle awakening." They are being awakened in many cases by their parents' children who ask difficult questions such as: "Why does God let people die?" Or, after the funeral, "Will we ever see grandma again?"

Some parents, according to the Hartford Seminary of Hartford, had such questions hard to answer. They became aware of their own emptiness, the Seminary quotes one as saying: "I don't want my children to feel the vacuum I do now." Others, like Brenda White-Naez, who teaches five-year-olds at Washington's Columbian Episcopal Church, say "it's also a matter of cultural change," which motivates parents to send children to Sunday school. For some reasons, to "learn the traditions within Judaism."

Richard Neupass took two small sons to an informal "cheder" or Jewish school, in Belmont Park, Meg Weeks and Barry Allen, both professional people who have little time for their children during the week, started their own Sunday school at Cleveland Park United Church of Christ for children up to third grades. After two years, they have 12 pupils.

Other Sunday schools observed that parents were in many cases not just depositing their young, but were drawing into the church communities that church attendance by the "baby-boomer" generation is up between 33 and 43 per cent compared with a few years ago.



Memorandum

By

Osama El-Sherif

At the minister's office Rashad Bek was full of indignation. What does the minister know about his own ministry? It was people like him who ran the show, but received little credit. The minister was a novice, someone who landed on top of the ladder and never climbed up as he did. These weekly meetings of indoctrination and theorizing were a nuisance. He examined the minister's office. It was the only room in the whole building which had wall-to-wall carpeting, electric heater, three telephones, a view of the city, couches and meeting chairs, healthy-looking plants and other amenities. Rashad Bek was furious. But he nodded his head and threw a "yes your excellency... you are absolutely right," every few seconds.

11:15. He left the minister's office, still walking languidly and carrying himself with effort. Again he passed scores of "citizens" waiting for their papers to be processed. His secretary was waiting for him with another batch of files when he reached his office. It was probably raining outside. Rashad Bek collapsed on his chair and ordered a cup of tea. His fingers were cold and so were his toes. He looked lazily at the fresh files and sighed. Why do people have so much requests? He thought to himself. He knew that these files were eagerly being wanted for outside his office. This idea used to fill him with all sorts of good and positive feelings about himself. But not today. Despite everything he held his pen and signed all the papers without even studying them. Even the secretary was shocked to find that files were ready when he came in with another bundle.

12:05. Rashad Bek was reading the newspaper for the tenth time. He was expecting news about his promotion for months now. He could not understand why his name had not appeared yet. It was assured to him by influential friends that it was imminent and that he was to be promoted before the end of the year. The minister would not even talk about promotions. The under-secretary came, the minister's secretary talked big but says nothing in the end. Probably that is why she feels depressed every morning when he finds no news about himself in the newspaper. It must be raining outside, he thought.

He was too tired to stand up and look.

He had strict orders that no files should be brought to his attention after 12 o'clock. But his secretary came in and mumbled something about a special case. It belonged to his wife's cousin and he hoped Rashad Bek would deal with it today. In normal cases he would do anything to satisfy his secretary, since this man was the best privilege he ever had. He served him well, brought him his favourite brand of imported cigarettes, the morning newspapers, the latest gossip and so forth. He saw no reason to deny him his request. But he was too tired and frustrated to accommodate him. So he yelled and ordered him out of the room.

1:15. It was time to leave. Rashad Bek began putting trinkets in his pockets: Pens and pencils, his lighter and cigarettes and his key chain. Another day of work was about to end. The minister had left 20 minutes ago, so it was safe for him to leave too. Rashad Bek looked at his unhappy secretary as he locked his room. He smiled and assured him that his cousin's papers will be first to get his approval tomorrow morning.

As Rashad Bek walked down the corridor, he saw tens of people waiting for their papers to be released from the many small rooms which filled the ministry. He tried to regain that sense of lost superiority, but could not. People paid little attention to him. Only the ministry's errand boys stood up as he passed by them.

It was raining outside as Rashad Bek suspected. He waited for 10 minutes until the rain stopped and he could run to his car. He was still feeling tired and lazy. He smoked a cigarette as he waited for his car to warm up. During that time he gazed at the ministry's building. 15 years of his life he spent there, slowly climbing up the ladder. His name was bound to come up soon, he knew it. And then he would regain his lost senses of pride and enjoyment as he sits in his new office on the top floor, three rooms away from the minister's office. He wondered, as he put the car into first gear, if he would get now car-pooling and an electric heater. His job, he thought, would certainly be more interesting if he does.

From here and there!

Because famine conditions are re-emerging in Africa, especially Ethiopia, the United States is sending Ethiopia an extra 105,000 tonnes of emergency relief grain. Alan Woods, development administrator for the AID Agency, who has just returned from Ethiopia, says the famine is comparable to the one in 1984-85. But he believes that the organization which dealt with '84-'85 would make it possible to avoid massive deaths of the famine in similar to those that occurred in the earlier famine.

Canada has ordered 550,000 tonnes of relief food including 247,000 by the United States. This is about half of what the Ethiopian government is asking. Tigre province, inhabited by Eritreans, is the area most acutely threatened now. Under a new scheme, instead of allowing the hungry to gather in huge camps, they are given two weeks to a month supply of food and expected to carry it back to their own villages.

The chambermaid at a Toronto Hotel was horrified recently when she discovered that one of the bathrooms and its tub were splattered with blood. Consequently she called the police, who discovered that the blood was not human, but from a seal. Several Eskimos, who had come down from the Arctic to a conference with officials, had brought with them a seal. Instead of frequently visiting restaurants, they had skinned the seal and eaten it.

The incident dramatized the contradictions in the campaign waged by animal lovers, first on behalf of baby seals, now also on behalf of foxes, beaver and mink. The original very successful campaign was against culling of the harp seal pups whose white pelts made fashionable fur coats. In 1983, the European Community banned import of such fur, and

as a result, Canada's sealing industry income plummeted from 10 million to one million dollars a year.

Now the pro-animal publicity shows suffering foxes, beaver and mink caught by cruel leg iron traps. People like Elizabeth White of the Toronto Human Society is fighting trappers and the fur industry. She says she does not see the issues as involving the native people, but rather the "broadly based industry," an industry thriving in the booming market for mink, fox and beaver fur, notably in Asia.

But the lady's argument is self-deluding, as testified by a wide variety of appeals from organizations and individuals. Thus John Sperry, the Anglican bishop of the Arctic, says that if animal right groups succeed, they will be guilty of cultural and economic genocide in the Arctic. "If they could see what impact their cause has had on the lives of these people, the pain that these people are experiencing as a result of that cause, then I am convinced they would rethink their position on this matter."

Northern Indians and Eskimos are taking to radio and television to describe their plight. And such a man as Mike Mediamid of Greenpeace in Toronto, who had agitated against the culling of seal pups, has now come around to recognizing the damage done to native peoples. "We were getting used to native communities and we were sensitive to that criticism." As a result, Canada's Greenpeace Organization has decided against active participation in the new animal-rights campaign.

Greenpeace is seeking a compromise with Indigenous Survival International — a lobby of Northern natives of Canada, Greenland and Alaska. Researchers at Canadian universities are trying to develop more humane alternatives to leg-iron holds.

Viewpoint

By Ya'coub Ahmad

Egypt readjusts the balance of power

UNDER PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak, Egypt, quietly and with carefully — calculated steps, is rejoining the Arab confrontation — line states when Israeli arrogance and intransigence have made it impossible for Cairo to maintain even the cool peace currently existing between the two sides.

Reports about an imminent summit meeting between Mr Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad and the Egyptian leader's recent assertion that Cairo considers itself committed to the Arab joint defence charter, leave no doubt that Egypt is getting ready to shoulder its responsibilities, at any necessary level, to end the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and resolve the Palestinian problem.

Egypt's return to the Arab streamline has been necessitated by numerous internal and external factors which have imposed themselves upon the Egyptian arena after long frustrating waiting for Israel to respond positively to peace initiatives, and for the United States to abandon its inactivity and step in forcibly to forge a Middle East peace settlement.

Neither the Egyptian people nor their political leadership can continue to watch indifferently the Israeli outrageous behaviour in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip or fail to react furiously at Israel's persistent refusal to recognize the Palestinian's national demands. The increasing gravity of the Israeli challenge and the steady deterioration of the situation in the past ten years which elapsed since the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was signed make it imperative for Egypt, for its own national security interests, to join openly in the effort to contain the Israeli threat.

Egypt's return has been hastened by the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the dangers posed by this conflict to the Arab order and the stability of the Gulf region which constitutes a vital outlet of paramount importance to Egypt's strategic interests. But it is the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict that will be deeply affected once Egypt is back to the confrontation with Israel.

Such return means that Egypt will join forces with any Arab country facing an Israeli military aggression. It could revive the Egyptian-Syrian alliance which brought about major military successes in the October 1973 war.

In discussing Egypt's return to the Arab fold, one must recall that Israel carried out its major military offensives, including the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, and stepped up its colonization process in the occupied territories when Egypt's Arab role has been neutralized. The absence of Egypt, the most powerful Arab country, has caused serious alarm in the course of common Arab action and severely upset the balance of power in the Middle East.

Egypt's return will thus readjust the balance of power and most probably prompt Israel and the United States to reconsider their disregard of Arab demands and respond actively to peace endeavours.

The Shift in Egypt's position will above all deal a painful blow to hostile powers who have been waging on the stability of Arabs to unite in the face of common dangers.

Feminism's long journey in the Arab World

By Maggie James

Special to The Star

POLITICS and religion have long shadowed aspects of women's rights in parts of the Arab world, even though the last few years have witnessed a significant progress in their fulfilment.

The struggle has been hard and only won by women in many Arab countries; impatience with that slow movement is at the centre of a life-long personal campaign by Nawal El Saadawi, the Egyptian doctor and author, who has chronicled her fights and frustrations in "The Hidden Face of Eve," published by London's Zed Books Ltd.

Saadawi's is a bitter and somewhat strongly phrased account of the problems, social pressures and exploitation of women in some Arab societies from childhood onwards. In condemning excesses against women, she makes few exceptions and singles out no-one for particular praise. The book provoked intense controversy when it was first published in Arabic in the late 1970s, and Saadawi's own pronounced involvement in the women's movement in Egypt ensured maximum interest in the book.

"There is no doubt that to write about women in Arab society, especially if the author is herself a woman, is to tread on difficult and sensitive areas," she says. "It is like picking your way through territory heavily with visible and hidden mines. Almost every step might touch on electrified wire, a sanctified and sacred spot which is not to be questioned because it is a part of the religious and moral structures that rear themselves up like heavy iron bars whenever questions related to women are raised and hands stretched out to set her free."

She seems determined to speak out on the problems that women face in some tradition-bound societies in the Middle East. Indeed, the first chapter recounts the horror of her own circumcision at the age of six — an experience etched on her mind ever since. This cruel practice — removal of the clitoris — is still widely continued in North Africa. In her capacity as a doctor, Nawal El Saadawi has often had to treat young girls who develop complications as a result of the usually unhygienic operations.

"Many people think that female circumcision only started with the



Egyptian author Nawal El Saadawi spares no-one.

advent of Islam. But as a matter of fact it was well known and widespread in some areas of the world before the Islamic era, including in the Arab peninsula," she reports. It is a practice that is "meant to preserve the chastity of young girls by reducing their desire for sexual intercourse."

Much of Nawal El Saadawi's anger is directed at the archetypal Arab male who, other evidence suggests, is disappearing fast, but perhaps not fast enough, with widespread education and the impact of mass communication on Arab societies.

Yet she is justified in pointing her finger at that male figure because, most statistics suggest, the majority of the male population in Arab communities taken as a whole still

has to move away from old prejudices. As an Egyptian, Saadawi no doubt has had firsthand experience of a congested, somewhat chaotic society, which of course is not true of the Arab communities in the Gulf and the peninsula.

"For most Arab men," she says, "to even think of a wife working outside the home is nothing more nor less than a direct reflection on his position and prestige as a male, and an affront to him as a man." This obviously no longer applies to the new societies in the Gulf, though it evidently remains a major problem in North Africa and southern peninsular countries.

She points out that women have been accorded the vote in most Arab countries. "But, in spite of

their new opportunities, very few are in a position to take advantage of them and to participate in politics, or present themselves as a candidate for elections. In Egypt, the number of women who go to the polls does not exceed 0.53 per cent of the total votes cast in the general elections."

This is no doubt true of many Arab societies, but it is also true that the last decade of intensive education and the return of female graduates from abroad have had a salutary effect on the role and participation of women.

Saadawi is right in arguing for more liberal family laws but, in traditional societies, there is no easy answer to legislative needs and realities.

The author questions why females are inherently treated as inferior to males. "I firmly believe that the reasons for the lower status of women in our societies, and the lack of opportunities for progress afforded to them, are not due to Islam, but rather to certain economic and political forces, namely those of foreign imperialism operating mainly from the outside, and of the reactionary classes operating from the inside. These two forces co-operate closely and are making a concerted attempt to misinterpret religion and to utilize it as an instrument of fear, oppression and exploitation," she concludes.

But she emphasizes, "The emancipation of Arab women cannot be achieved unless the root causes of, and conditions leading to, oppression are swept away. Real emancipation can only mean freedom from all forms of exploitation whether economic, political, sexual or cultural. Economic emancipation alone is not sufficient."

As far as women in Arab history are concerned, Saadawi says that, "Most women in our region have succumbed to the heavy load of patriarchal class society and have ended up prisoners of the home, of the veil and of a system which prevents them from participating in the economic and social life of their society."

Asserting that "the problems of Arab women undoubtedly differ according to the class to which they belong — they become worse the lower the woman drops in the social scale," Saadawi argues in favour of a militant and united women's liberation organization.

Nawal El Saadawi is a vigorous advocate for the autonomy of women and argues that, "It is Arab women alone who can formulate the theory, the ideas and modes of struggle needed to liberate themselves from all oppression," one of her chief aims being "the creation of a women's movement in each Arab country, capable of mobilizing the women in every home, village, town or city, of drawing into its ranks the illiterate peasant woman, the female factory worker, the educated professional woman," meaning that "the Arab movement for democracy, progress and socialism is capable of reaching every woman, and is attaining the stage where it is a real mass movement and not just the instrument of a specific class."

In this new book Nawal El Saadawi is at her provocative best.

med, having spent much of his youth in Kerak, used it as his summer residence and was responsible for building it into a city. His son, who inherited the sultanate after him, also loved Kerak, and moved the seat of government to Kerak during his reign. The move was not popular among the Mamluks. His throne was usurped shortly after he became Sultan, and the seat of government was moved back to Cairo.

According to archaeologists Robin Browne of the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR), and Allison McQuitty of the British Institute in Jordan for Archaeology and History, who have been studying the Mamluks in Jordan, the structures of Mamluk buildings are buried under the modern cities of Kerak and Shabab, or have been destroyed. As a result, Mamluk architecture is not as evident here as it is in not as evident here as it is in Jordan, where there were agricultural settlements, only remains of sugar mills and sugar pots have been found.

Kerak was considered to be a centre of learning during the Mamluk period. Sultan Naser Moham-

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24 DECEMBER 1987

health

By Lama Kilani
Special to The Star

WOMEN'S health and behaviour during pregnancy affect her baby. A poor diet, some drugs, certain stresses, smoking, alcohol, and other things can hold back the baby's development or even cause abnormalities. Most women know this, and the knowledge can be worrying.

It is the early months of pregnancy that are especially important. In the twelve weeks after conception, all the baby's organs are formed, including the brain, the nervous system and the heart. Yet during this vital early time you may not even know that you are pregnant. So, since no couple can know exactly when they conceive, it makes sense to "prepare" for pregnancy. Then you can be certain that from the moment of conception onwards you will be giving your baby the best possible chance of being healthy. And you will be less likely to be worried or anxious during pregnancy.

Rubella
If you catch rubella (another name for German measles) while you are pregnant, your baby can be severely damaged, especially if you catch it during the first three months of pregnancy. Rubella can damage the baby's heart and nervous system and cause deafness and blindness. It can also be the cause of miscarriage or stillbirth.

It is vital to make sure that you are immune to rubella before you become pregnant. First, ask your doctor for a blood test. This will show whether or not you are immune. If you are not, your doctor will give you a vaccination. After having it, you must make sure you don't become pregnant for three months afterwards.

Have the blood test even if you think you are immune. If you become pregnant before you are immunized against rubella and then come into contact with someone who has it, tell your doctor at once. A blood test will show whether or not you are naturally immune. If you are not, blood tests at fortnightly intervals will show whether you have been infected or not.

Stopping contraception
If you are taking the contraceptive pill, it is probably best to stop about three months before you try to conceive. The reason for this gap between stopping the pill and starting a baby is that the pill alters the amounts of certain substances in the blood. A gap allows you to get back to normal before you conceive; then once you are pregnant you can be much more certain about when the baby will be due. If you use a coil, then have it taken out at the end of a period. Then there is no need to wait before you try to conceive.

Smoking and alcohol
Besides the harm that smoking does to your own health, it is known beyond any doubt that smoking can harm the developing baby. Also known are the effects of heavy drinking on the development of the baby, especially during the early weeks.

More recently, some evidence has suggested that even moderate or light drinking can affect the baby in the same ways though, less severely. So that the less you drink, the better your chances of a healthy baby. It is true that if you limit yourself to just an occasional drink, the risk to your baby will be very small. But if you cut out alcohol completely, you cut out this risk completely.

Before you get pregnant



It makes good sense to prepare for pregnancy

Jordanian pharmacist Lama Kilani has written a series of articles for The Star about nutrition and health in pregnancy and childbirth. In this article she stresses the importance of taking precautions before conception against potential hazards for the baby, since the early weeks of life are so vital in its development.

Drugs during pregnancy

A number of pills and medicines, including some that can be bought over the counter, can harm the developing baby. The harm is almost always done very early in pregnancy. If you are taking any sort of pills or medicines regularly, (for example, for blood pressure or asthma, for example) see your doctor before you even try to conceive and ask whether what you take should be changed. Conditions like diabetes have to be even more carefully controlled than usual during pregnancy to avoid any harm to the baby. Talk to your doctor before you become pregnant.

It is best for women who don't have to take drugs for any medical condition to avoid all drugs before conception and right through pregnancy, unless they are prescribed by a doctor. If you go to your doctor, and are given a prescription, remember to say that you are trying for a baby. Then your doctor can avoid medicines which should not be taken in pregnancy. Ask your pharmacist about anything bought over the counter, for example, aspirin and painkillers like Aspirin and Paracetamol. Remember, if you can possibly avoid all drugs, you eliminate any risk there is to your baby.

Hazards at work
It is possible that the work you do, especially if you work in industry, could be a threat to your baby's health and it is worth checking up on this before you become pregnant. You could be at risk if you work with certain chemicals, or lead, or are exposed to radiation, or if the work you do is particularly tiring or stressful.

These things affect both the husband and wife before conception (for example in extreme cases they can cause infertility), and after conception they can affect the foetus. If you work with chemicals, your doctor should be able to tell you whether there is any re-

The Rhesus factor

It is very important for you and your husband to have blood tests before becoming pregnant in case a transfusion should be needed, and because of the Rhesus factor.

Blood groups are two parts: the A, B, O group, in which the pa-

tient is either group A, B, O, or AB, and the rhesus group where the patient is either Rhesus positive or Rhesus negative. About 86% of normal women are said to be Rhesus positive. If you and your husband are both Rhesus negative or Rhesus positive, then no problems will arise, since the baby will be the same as his parents.

If, however, the Rhesus negative woman does become pregnant with a Rhesus positive foetus, there is a danger, especially at the time of delivery, that some of the foetal red blood cells will escape into the mother's circulation and stimulate her to produce anti-Rhesus positive antibodies. These antibodies will then attack and destroy any Rhesus positive red blood cells which they come into contact with.

As Rhesus positive antibodies are only likely to be formed in the mother after the baby is born, a first baby is unaffected. However, the antibodies remain in the mother's blood and if she becomes pregnant again with a Rhesus positive foetus, the anti-Rhesus positive antibodies will cross the placenta and attack and destroy the foetal red cells and cause the baby to become anaemic and jaundiced. The baby would then need an exchange transfusion.

Nowadays the mother can be given an injection of a substance called anti-D gamma globulin after the delivery of her first baby. This injection attacks and destroys the Rhesus positive cells before they can initiate the formation of antibodies by the mother.

Inherited abnormalities
Just as characteristics like hair colour are passed on in families through the genes, in the same way certain abnormalities can be genetically inherited. If either you or your husband have a relative with some sort of inherited disease (muscular dystrophy, haemophilia or cystic fibrosis, for example) or with some sort of abnormality, or if you have already had an abnormal baby, then you may want to know about the risks as far as possible before you conceive.

Talk to your doctor, and explain that you are thinking of having a baby and that you're worried about the possibility of abnormality. Your doctor may refer you to a genetic counsellor who can tell you much more about the sort of risk you would be taking, if any.

By Suchinta Wijesooriya
Special to The Star

AN EXHIBITION of the architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem was opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Jordan National Gallery in Jabal Al Weibdeh, on Saturday, 19th December. The exhibit will be open to the public until 30 December, during the operating hours of the museum, (10 am - 5 pm daily, except on Tuesdays when the gallery is closed).

The exhibit comes to Amman from the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem to celebrate the completion and publication of the survey, conducted by them between 1968 and 1984. It is sponsored by Jordan by the Royal Society of Fine Arts, in co-operation with the British Council.

The British School of Archaeology is the most complete archaeological study done on Islamic Jerusalem so far. Most of the archaeological research done in the city is centred around the Judeo-Christian significance of the city,

and its Islamic history was, for the most part, ignored. The book "Mamluk Jerusalem" authored by Dr Michael Burgoyne is the publication resulting from the survey. It was published with the help and assistance of several benefactors including Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. The 18 panels of photographs and drawings displayed at the exhibition were taken from the book.

The Mamluks and their legacy

The Mamluks were originally non-Arab slave guards of the Ayyubid Caliphs. Their dynasty lasted from 1260 to 1517, and their empire included Greater Syria and Palestine. Cairo was the seat of government, but Jerusalem remained the spiritual centre. Their main objective was to defeat the Mongols, and to ensure that the Crusaders did not return to Pal-

estine. When Salahaddin conquered Jerusalem from the Crusaders, he initiated a building programme to visually proclaim Islam in the city. Al-Haram al-Sharif, the quadrangular enclosure on the eastern section of the city contains two of the most spectacular examples of Islamic architecture — the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

When the Mamluks took control of Jerusalem, they continued building the city, and Islamic architecture was at its peak in Jerusalem during the Mamluk period.

Most of the other Mamluk structures in Jerusalem were built in close proximity to the Haram. They included mosques (masjids), theological colleges, (madarsas) a

hospital (maristan), drinking fountain (sabil), caravanserais, markets (sugs), bathhouses (hammam) and pilgrim houses (ribats). It was during the Mamluk period that the old city of Jerusalem acquired much of its present architectural character. Mamluk buildings are also found in Cairo, Damascus and Aleppo.

Jordan in Mamluk times

Jordan's importance during this period was as a through route for Haj pilgrims. Mamluk occupation here was in small agricultural settlements, and in towns such as Kerak and Shabab.

Kerak was considered to be a centre of learning during the Mamluk period. Sultan Naser Moham-

Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem on display

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Big Sale

Women join forces against female circumcision

By Diane C. Chhangwa
Special to The Star

IN CHINA, a Reform Movement organized by women themselves succeeded in freeing them of foot-binding, a practice imposed upon them for centuries. India has managed to proscribe the suttee practice which once obliged every Hindu widow to be cremated on her husband's funeral pyre upon his death. Coming closer home, Arab women, who were once forced to bury their baby girls alive, have done away with such a tradition.

Through viewing such socio-cultural revolutions people have been given the courage to develop strategies that will eventually eradicate damaging traditional practices that so greatly violate women.

It is also the successful outcome of such socio-cultural revolutions that the world was led to witness the pioneer campaign against the traditional practice of Female Circumcision (FC), which is still found in more than 28 African countries and in some parts of the Middle East today. At a World Health Organization (WHO) seminar in Khartoum in 1979, the issue of FC and its dangers was extensively discussed by government Health Ministry delegations from affected countries.

Since that time a lot more discussions and strategies to eliminate the traditional practice have evolved. Apart from the violation of women's rights over their bodies, studies done on women practised on show that a large percentage of them suffer from life-long damage to their health, and death in some cases.

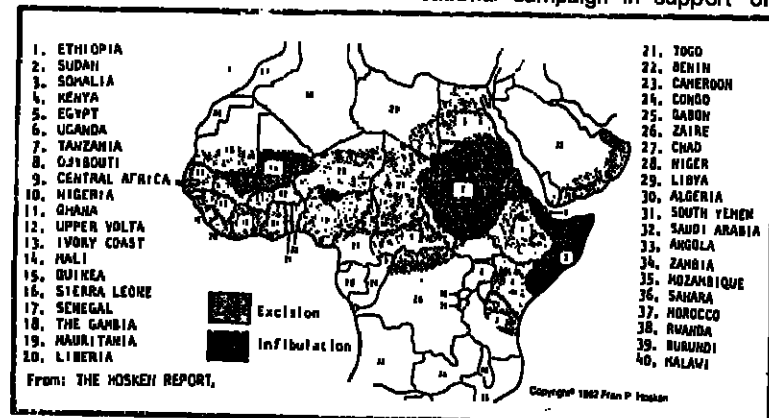
As women in traditional African societies remain the principal subsistence farmers, they are of vital importance to their communities which largely depend on the food they produce. Since FC has been noted to bring about permanent damage to women's health, it poses a direct threat to the women's ability to work efficiently. It also contributes to terrible psychological consequences which affect women throughout their lives.

Added to all this now is the danger of AIDS. According to studies done by Dr. Lawrence K. Altman, M.D., Medical Reporter of the N.Y. Times, citing many medical sources, hospitals and researchers in Africa, results indicate that in Africa women are affected almost as widely as men, while, in the United States and Europe, the vast majority of AIDS victims are males who are either mostly homosexuals or intravenous-drug users who share contaminated needles.

According to Dr. Altman, since the AIDS virus has been detected in semen but not in vaginal secretions, the virus may be less easily transmitted from woman to man than from man to woman.

Although no definite reasons relating to why AIDS appears to be more widespread among heterosexuals in Africa have been determined, some researchers theorize that the AIDS virus may spread more easily among females in Africa who have the scars and the obstruction created by the FC operation. According to the theory, breaks of the skin from the old wounds allow the AIDS virus to enter the body more easily than through intact skin, hence explaining why AIDS is found more amongst heterosexuals especially in areas where FC is practised. As the practice of FC has strong moral and economical reasons attached to it, developing strategies to eliminate the practice have not been an easy task for those concerned. In the traditional families where FC is practised, it is believed that the girl concerned becomes more attractive and eligible for marriage upon undergoing the operation. This in turn brings honour to the family's image.

Also, as this practice is usually done in great secrecy, it is very difficult to determine exactly how many people are affected by it. However, various steps have been taken to try to reach all the different groups of people who follow the practice.



This map shows how widely spread the practice is

Following the WHO Seminar in 1979, WIN NEWS began to provide the Childbirth Picture Books (CBPB), which include information against FC, free to those who need them in Africa. Also WIN NEWS has tried to provide young graduates, who serve in villages for several years after graduation with at least one CBPB to take along with them to educate people in all the affected areas. Today more than 25,000 copies written in English, French, Arabic and Spanish, have been distributed.

The success of the Khartoum Seminar has also brought about more conferences and organized national groups aimed at educating more people on the hazards caused by FC.

The Inter-Africa Committee has played a big role in some of the major educational campaigns. According to a WIN NEWS publication, at the FORUM '85 of the UN Decade Conference, the Inter-Africa Committee provided an excellent overview and a report on "African Women Speak on Female Circumcision", which included reports from 13 African countries.

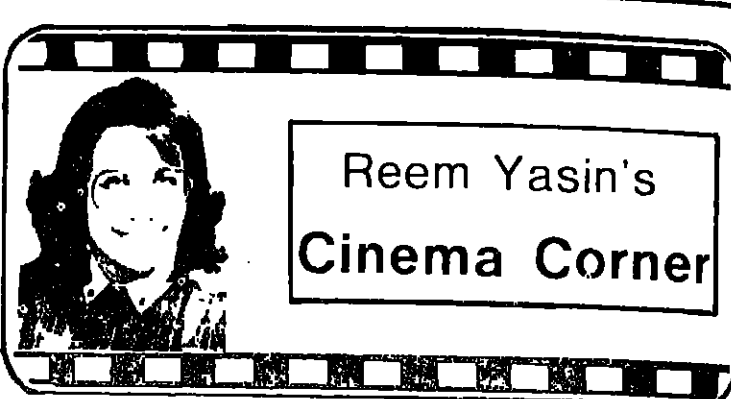
This was a great achievement since, at another UN Decade conference held only in 1985, the subject of FC was suppressed as it was still considered a "taboo" subject among many African women.

Other goals that the Inter-Africa committee hopes to achieve are to create short-term awareness of the adverse medical, psychological, social and economical implications of FC. It also hopes to encourage research on the extent to which FC is practised in the various African and Middle Eastern countries. The Inter-Africa committee hopes to increase the number of training materials being used to educate and eventually eradicate FC. Such materials include the use of posters, pamphlets, video films and various materials to inform medical groups and communication personnel on the hazards caused by FC.

However, education on FC has not been limited to African and middle eastern countries. In European countries where there is a high influx of African workers and immigrants, authorities have tried to implement laws which prohibit the practice.

An example of such is the UK, which in 1984 passed a "Prohibition of Circumcision Bill" which acknowledged FC as an act potentially harmful to women and children. This bill eventually became law in 1985.

In the meantime, grants totalling £86,000 from 1985-86 and 1987-88 have gone to three voluntary organizations - the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD), the London Black Women's Action Project, and the Minority Rights Group - all of which have developed schemes to promote an information and educational campaign in support of



Reem Yasin's
Cinema Corner

Love's own special language

IT HAS been quite a while since anything in the nature of a distinguished film has hit the screens of our local cinema houses. Therefore, the quite long showing period of "Children of a Lesser God" came as a most welcome breather for many film fans.

The Academy-Award winning film had five Oscar nominations though it only managed to win one: that of Best Actress, awarded to twenty one year old Marlee Matlin, a deaf girl who rendered her role with stark realism and heartrending honesty. Apart from that human factor it is hard to imagine what lifted the film to the great honorary list.

Basically, the film is a very simple and ordinary love story where there is a problem of communication - a problem that may be applicable to any relationship between people coming from different worlds. Those differences may be ones of culture, social background, or simply temperament or emotional hangups that prevent the true expression of love.

In the film, Sarah's deafness is only a stark embodiment of that barrier: her actual physical inability to speak makes her isolated and silent world seem more difficult to penetrate. William Hurt, in an excellent performance as the teacher in Sarah's school for the deaf, does an incredible job of trying to break into her shell and bring her out to his world to share with him its joys.

Again, like in any relationship, love has a language all of its own, where words are often superfluous. The ultimate way to make that relationship work is through compromise, the mutual attempt to share the other's world regardless of how alien it is - which is the happily satisfying ending of the film.

With such a theme and with such protagonists it is very difficult for the film to avoid melodrama. Some of the scenes, however, especially those between Sarah and James, are so intense that they leave the audience as well as the actors worn out.

However, in some cases the tale gets quite mushy such as the sequences where the devoted teacher goes to incredible lengths trying to teach his deaf students to dance to music they cannot hear. The classroom scenes have more an air of a documentary than that of drama, thus breaking the mood of the film and jarring its overall impact.

But the great impact that is sustained all through the film is the beauty of its photography. In many scenes it is simply breathtaking, especially the sequences in the water which are not only exquisite but also symbolically expressive as they show Sarah's isolation in a different element, literally "at sea" with all her surroundings.

Recent film releases

- Baby Boom (PG)** Diane Keaton - Motherly obligations aside-track woman executive's career. Delightful yuppie comedy (Good).
- Cry Freedom (PG)** Denzel Washington - Powerful epic biography of a black activist and fight against apartheid (Great).
- Fatal Attraction (R)** Michael Douglas - Crackerjack thriller of man caught in threatening extra-marital affair (Good).
- Flowers in the Attic (PG-13)** Louise Fletcher - Dreary horror film about children kept prisoner in an attic (Boring).
- Hello Again (PG)** Shelley Long - Housewife comes back from dead to harass remarried husband. Glimicky comedy (Fair).
- The Hidden (R)** Michael Nouri - Unique sci-fi thriller with nifty suspense and mystery elements (Good).
- The Last Emperor (PG-13)** John Lone - Beautifully filmed, sweeping epic of China's last imperial ruler. Visually exciting (Great).
- Less than Zero (R)** Andrew McCarthy - Conventional account of alienated rich teens (Fair).
- Nuts (R)** Barbra Streisand - Dynamite performance by Barbra as an eccentric woman trying to prove her sanity (Great).
- Planes, Trains and Automobiles (R)** Steve Martin, John Candy - Spiffy comedy on the frustrations of modern travelling (Good).
- The Running Man (R)** Arnold Schwarzenegger - Gladiator fights for life on futuristic TV game show. Mindless mayhem (Fair).
- Sign o' the Times (PG-13)** Prince - An energetic concert film with the outrageous singer belting out blistering numbers (Good).

PEOPLE & EVENTS

On Saturday the exhibit "The Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem" was opened by Her Majesty Queen Hoor. Her Majesty was received by the Royal Highness Princess Widad Al, the President of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, Director of the National Gallery Suhail Bisharat, and Muna Rifai.

The show was organized by the British Council in Amman and the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. Guests included British Ambassador John Coles and his wife, The Chinese Ambassador and his wife, Mr and Mrs Ja'far Toukan, Monsigneur Raouf Najjar, Mr and Mrs Najdat Takriti, and Christine Wang, as well as artists Hasem Al-Zohbi, Ahmad Na'wash, Diana Shamouni, Saleh Abu Shindi and Ibrahim Najjar.

The show ends on 30 December.

When Amman's Australian community celebrates Australia Day on 26 January, they won't be missing just another birthday. 1988 marks their bi-centennial and will be celebrated with typical Australian vigor and style. The major event is World Expo 88 in Brisbane.

The Arab Graduates Club has been very active recently, as it held two activities in one week's time. The first of these activities was a lecture about "Astronomy in the Rescue of Antiquities", presented by the astronomer Dr. Farouk El Baz. This activity took place at the Jordan Electricity Authority, in cooperation with the National Resources Authority, last Thursday.

In his lecture Dr. El Baz talked about the benefits of utilizing modern technology in the field of astronomy, particularly satellite pictures in producing topographic maps which consequently help in the detection of geological and archaeological sites. He gave Egypt as an example where these techniques have proved very effective and are used as a basis for archaeological research there.

The second activity was another type of lecture, "The role of the writer in public issues," this time presented by the famous writer Dr. Nawal Saadawi at the Royal Cultural Centre last Wednesday. Among those who attended both activities were of course Dr. Mawla Bakri, the President of the Club and the active character behind all these activities, as well as many other members of the club and their guests.

A big reception was held at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador last week on the occasion of his departure for Ecuador. His Excellency and Mrs. Akiko Nakayama have "mixed feelings" about leaving Jordan in which they spent about four and a half active years. The couple has contributed a great deal to the Jordanian people as well as to the Japanese.

Among their guests were Dr. and Mrs. Ahmad Mango, Dr. and Mrs. Abbas Kaidar, Mr and Mrs Shehab Madi, Mr and Mrs Marwan Doukid, Mr and Mrs Mohamed Al-Husseini, members of the diplomatic corps and many other Jordanian and foreign personalities.

Dr. Waleed Qassem, son of Faltz and Rafiq Qassem of Irbid, has just been granted his PhD in engineering from the University of Toledo in the United States. Dr. Qassem is a graduate of Jenn Secondary School, the University of Baghdad, and Michigan State University. He and his wife Sahar have three children: Doha, Ayman, and Basim.

John Esposito, Director of the Islamic Centre of the Holy Cross College, Mass, USA, gave a lecture last Saturday in the World Affairs Council, on "The Role of Islam in Sociopolitical Change." Present were Dr. A. Majali, President of the Council, H. Dabbas, A. Abu-Odeh, and Dr. A. Bukhayyat, plus a number of the other members and their friends.

A multitude of people came to attend the official opening of our new building which coincided with the 20th anniversary of our sister, Ad-Dustour, and to wish us good luck. The official opening missed its patron, Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib, who did not attend due to family reasons. But, in a rain considered to be a good omen for our two papers and the country as a whole, hundreds of well-wishers attended, among them senior government officials, ambassadors, representatives of several countries, fellow media members and friends. Some of the people seen by The Star were Algerian Ambassador Mohammad Birgham, Jordan News Agency (Petra) director Ali Al-Safadi, Nuha Batshon, H.E. Salah Abu Zaid, Greek Chargé d'Affaires Kiriakos Maniatis, Bankers Abdul-Qader Al-Qadi, Amer Salti and Zuhair.

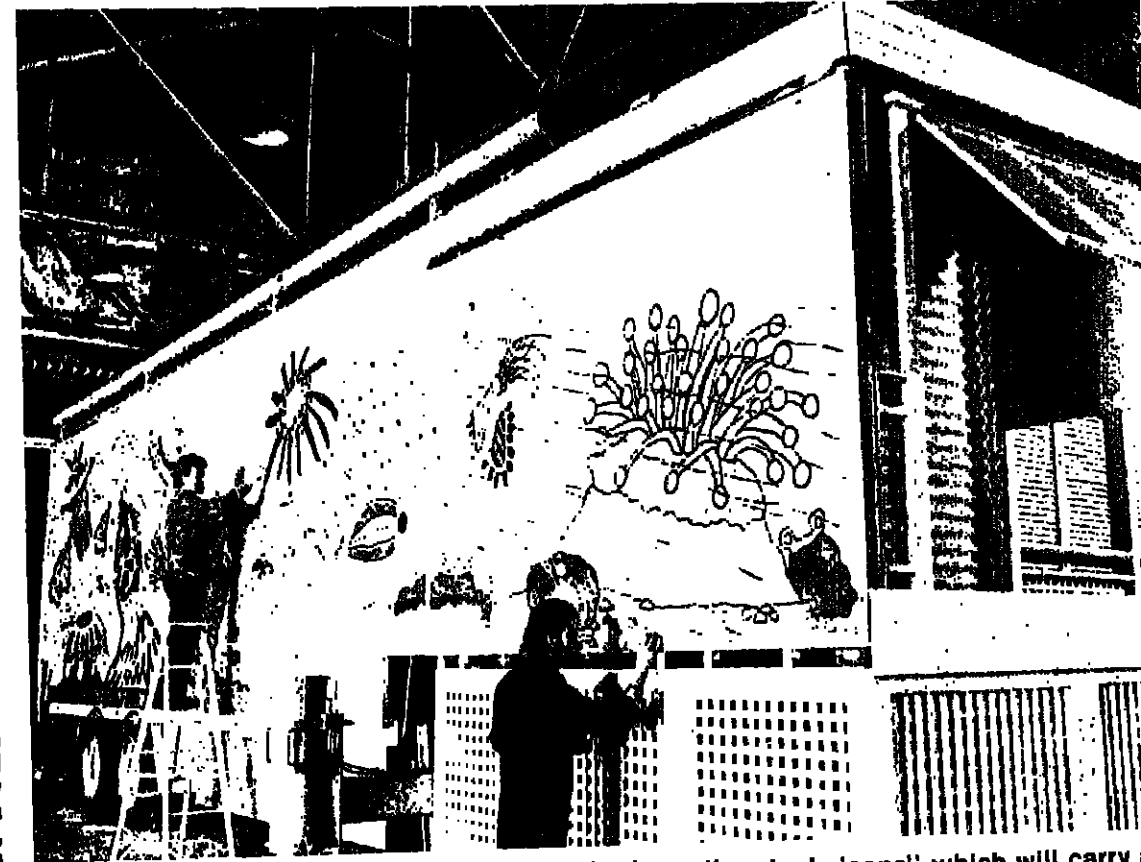


This caricature by Samir Maseh pokes fun at crowded R.J. flights

all looking forward to celebrating our silver anniversary Insha'Allah, and many happy returns.

Lina Subehi, pharmacist, daughter of Dr. S. Subehi, Deputy Health Minister, returned from Moscow last Tuesday after a 10-month stay there for health reasons. Her parents gave a luncheon party on her honour which was attended by members of the family and friends. Among those present were Dr. Bassam Saket, General Secretary of the Royal Court, Dr. I. Haj Hassan, a private orthopaedic surgeon, and Dr. Munib Saket, a teacher of Pharmacy in the University of Jordan.

The children's Christmas party given by the Donne Italiane di Giordanian for the orphans at the convent of the Franciscan Sisters in Wadi Al-Seer was a great success, one of the Italian ladies told The Star. She said the programme of singing, dancing and skits performed by the children was not only beautiful, but netted some funds for the orphanage. Prizes included some dinner vouchers at hotels, but the big prize, a weekend in Aqaba, was won by Mr and Mrs Pierluigi Berregglanni. The Italian ladies, who formed a club last year, continue to be of great assistance to needy causes and civic activities, and the Jordanian community wishes to thank them and wish



Artists put the finishing touches on one of the huge "pantechicons" which will carry a bicentennial display all over Australia

InterContinental Hotel on Saturday in honour of Japanese Ambassador Akira Nakayama who has just terminated his mission in Jordan.

The banquet was attended by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary General, Nabil Al-Nimr, Chief of Political Section Dr. Nassar Batayneh, Ministry Senior Officials, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Jordan, Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Mohan, Mad Bin Jaber Al-Thani and a number of foreign and Arab ambassadors accredited to Jordan.

The Administration department at UNRWA Headquarters here in Amman celebrated the birthday of one of their senior staff members Fifi Hishmah, last week. A special guest was Fyooji Tateyama, head of Administration and Special Projects.

Jordanian artist Samir Maseh's exhibition was opened on Saturday at the Spanish Cultural Centre by Usamah Mikdad, the Assistant Director General of the Department of Culture and Art. The Director of the Spanish Cultural Centre, Tahseen 'Ojail, was there, as well as artists Khalid Khrele, Mohamed Kaitouga, Youssef Badawi, and Jamal Ashour.

The artist's 36 water colours, currently on display, feature Samir in his first solo exhibition of caricatures and scenery.

The scenery part contains a collection of nature and landscapes depicting the four seasons in shades of blue, violet, pink, green and yellow-orange.

Samir's impressionist nature, done from the imagination, is a harmonious blend of pastels, enhanced with feathery strokes of black crayon reflecting his creativity and mastery with colours.

Samir's caricatures picture anecdotes of social and professional life appealing to the viewer's sense of humour and art. A baggy man with ragged clothes saying "I accept visa card" and a computer employee are found redundant. Among Samir's pictures which reflect the funny side of life, are:

Proceeds of this exhibition will go to the Spanish Alumni Club in Amman. The show continues until 31 December.

Foreign Minister, Taher Al-Masri gave a luncheon at the Jordan



"Hey! I can hear the traffic!"



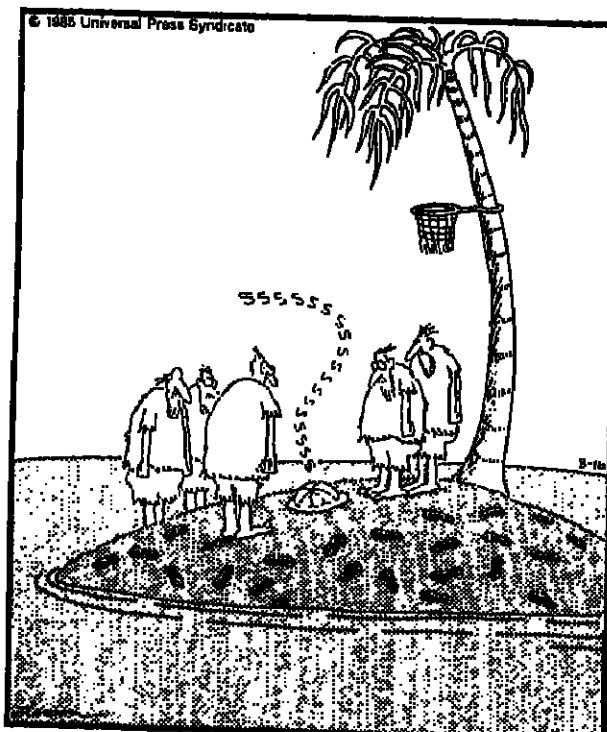
Early business failures



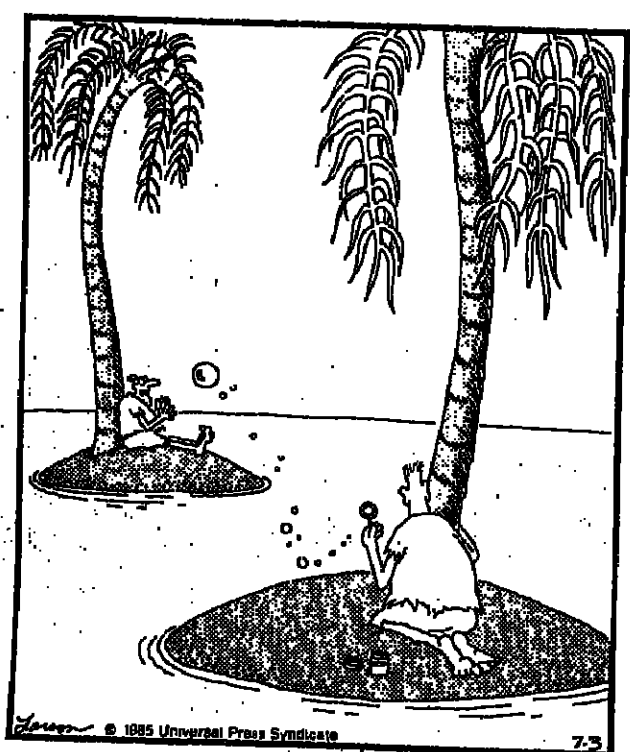
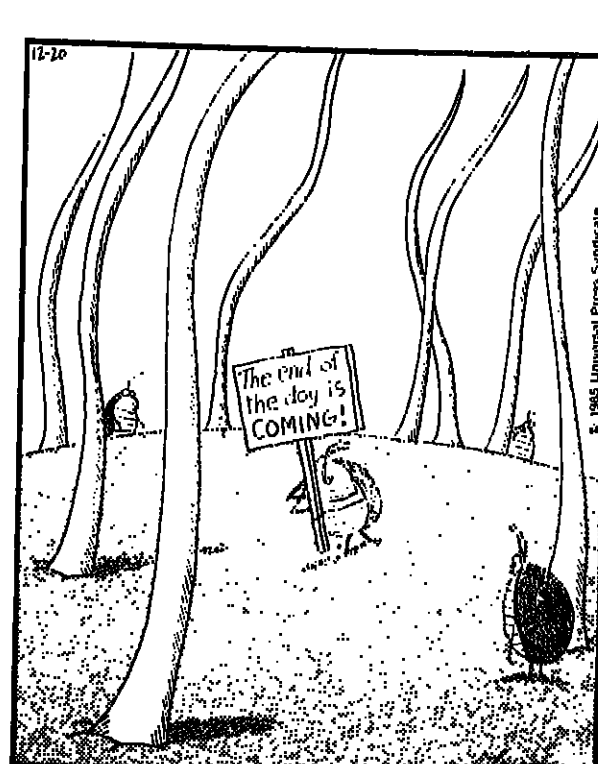
Shark nerds always ran the projector

THE FAR SIDE

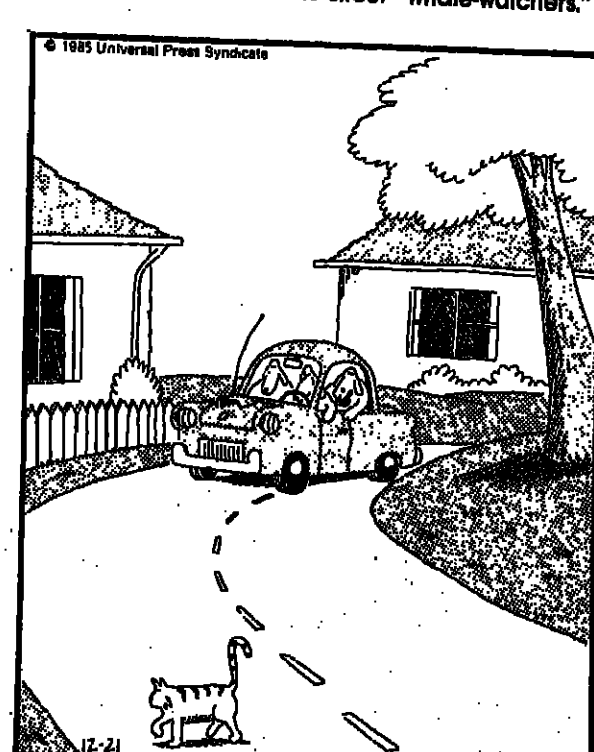
By GARY LARSON



"Uh-oh, Norm. Across the street—whale-watchers."



"Ooooh Ooooh ... Are you a good witch or a bad witch?"



"Rusty! Two points!"



"Hold on there, Dale. It says we should sand between coats."

Channel 2,
from 26
December—
1 January

French Programmes

Saturday

* 05.50 - La Mafia, last episode. Canito's wife gives Canito documents which convict the Mafia and a list of their names, but death and blood don't stop.

* 07.00 - News In French.

* 07.15 - The 10th International Circus Festival in Paris. This week: Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Sunday

* 05.50 - Rue Carnot, eps 50: A drama series.

* 06.20 - L'ecole Des Fans. This week's guest is the singer C. Jerome.

* 07.00 - News In French.

* 07.15 - French Varieties.

Monday

* 05.55 - L'Agonie de L'Angle, / part 3: Last part about the exile, death, and the burial of Napoleon Bonaparte on the Island of St. Helen after his defeat at Waterloo.

* 07.00 - News In French.

* 07.15 - The weekly sport magazine.

Tuesday

* 05.30 - La Raision Perdue, — A French Feature Film — Sonia accuses her parents of killing Michel Camo who used to work for them. They think she has lost her mind.

* 07.00 - News In French.

* 07.15 - Un Deux De Plus:



Your
TV guide

Channel
2



This week is episode 5 of "Floodtide".

A variety programme of the latest French songs and music. This week: La Groupe Image.

Wednesday

* 05.25 - Change, Elysées: A variety programme with Michel Drucker.

* 07.00 - News In French.

* 07.15 - Aujourd'hui En Jordanie, a local magazine.

Thursday

* 06.00 - Rue Carnot, eps. 52.

Next week...

New Year's special surprise from
The Jerusalem Star

More than you ever expected from
Gary Larson

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* 08.30 Sorry, "Amaze Your Friends": Tim attends a course on "self assertion", and when he asserts himself with Mother his girlfriend finds him quite engaging!

* 09.00 Sat. Variety Show.

* 10.20 Feature Film. "Crime Knows No Age".

Sunday

* 08.30 Charles In Charge.

* 09.10 One Part Doc. prog.

* 10.20 The Equalizer.

* 08.30 Kate & Allie.

* 09.10 falcon Crest.

* 10.20 Play. Motel du lac. An English Female author goes to spend her vacation alone in a hotel on an island in Switzerland.

Tuesday

* 08.30 Farrington Of The F.O.: Posted to a country where graft, corruption and banditry are the only growth industries, Consul-General Harriet Farrington is faced with a terrifying choice: death, dishonour — or both.

* 09.10 Remington Steele: "Santa Claus Is Coming To Steele."

* 10.20 The Last Part Of The Best Seller. "Beggarman Thief".

Wednesday

* 08.30 Valerie.

* 09.10 Well Being. "Name Your Poison" Every culture has had its drugs; the problem with ours is that we have too many and like to mix them. Though no-one seems to know why we become addicted to poisonous pleasures, everyone knows how hard it is to give them up. The programme finds out how different people have coped with tobacco and alcohol addiction, and looks at a new problem — tranquillisers.

* 10.20 Floodtide eps 5 "The Catch".

* 11.10 Hi De Hi. "Peggy's Big Chance"

Thursday

* 08.30 Censored Bloopers.

* 09.20 New Cycle Preview.

* 10.20 Feature Film. "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes": Marilyn Monroe, Charles Coburn. Brassy musical about two girls — Monroe and Jane Russell — gone gold-digging in Paris.

Friday

* 08.30 Nothing Is Easy.

* 09.10 Moonlighting.

* 10.20 Falcon Crest.

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Many in the medical profession and charities openly acknowledge that the political problems that cause such heart-rending treatment of the innocent would not go away easily, so the need now is to ease suffering as much as possible.

The problems seem to be particularly severe in Lebanon, the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to medical experts based in London. The boys, Bilal Shebab, aged seven, one of 12 children of a Palestinian family from the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp, and Samir Ibrahim, aged nine, a Lebanese child, became paraplegic after they were wounded by snipers' bullets.

Bilal and Samir were brought to Britain, to be treated in a specialized hospital at Stoke Mandeville, England, following intervention by Pauline Cutting, a doctor with the London-based charity Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). They returned to Beirut on 4 December, cheerfully ready to take on the murderous lifestyle of the embattled city. Both were well on way to full recovery as they were doted on by their families.

Their story is not typical, however. Bilal and Samir were among 30 children shortlisted for special treatment in Britain. Several have gone to France and Holland. That group itself was only a fraction of the community that needs urgent medical help in Beirut.

"One must not become complacent about the situation as a result of just one success story," said one MAP official. According to Mike Holmes,



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The health challenge

Freedom from illness remains illusory for many inhabitants of the war zones of Lebanon and the Israeli-held territories. In Gaza and the West Bank, the problem is compounded by lack of emergency aid, as illustrated by recent troubles. Now attempts are being made to increase international medical assistance. The primary aim is to ease suffering amongst the people while political problems remain unresolved.

spokesman for MAP, "Although we do all we can to help the victims of war in Lebanon, it is only under exceptional circumstances that we are able to arrange the transportation of patients to England for treatment."

"We still have major problems to tackle," he said. "We try to do all we can to help displaced people in refugee camps as economically as we can, a task far from easy."

Despite recurrent attacks, first from Christian Phalangist forces then from Shia Muslim Amal militia men, some 30,000 Palestinians still live in the re-

fugee camps, including Sabra and Chatila, scenes of massacres in 1982. Bourj Al Barajneh and Mar Elias. Not only are the inhabitants short of normal health care, but the siege during March and April 1987 gravely underlined the lack of emergency help.

Operating from its London headquarters, MAP has tried to fill that gap. Founded in Britain in 1972 as Palestinian Medical Aid, the charity was relaunched under its new name in 1984. Among the initiators of the relaunch were British and other citizens who were in Lebanon in 1982 and witnessed the hor-

rors of the Israeli invasion.

Now, three MAP hospitals in Beirut camps offer treatment "without discrimination and regardless of nationality, religion or political affiliation." The numbers of wounded and sick children treated by doctors working free of charge for MAP runs into hundreds. Donations ensure a steady supply of medicines for treatment and immunization programmes.

During the spring siege and the following weeks, when Syrian troops entered Beirut to expel Amal militia men, medical teams such as those of Pauline Cutting, the Malaysian-born

Swee Chai Ang, Indian-born, ran Gargesh and Susan Wighton, of Edinburgh, worked in horrific conditions to treat the wounded.

With most communications cut by the siege, "they were treated the injured and sick with dwindling medical supplies and often without proper anaesthetics," Holmes recalled. Lebanese government services were not only starved of funds; they also lacked staff and basic equipment, yet most were overcrowded.

Although the worst in the current phase of Lebanon's civil war seems to be over, monumental difficulties still confront the wounded medical teams, ranging from cash crunch to the logistical problems caused by a fragile security situation.

Over the border, in Israel, conditions for Palestinian sick and wounded also leave much to be desired, according to charity medical officials. An Israeli researcher quoted by the charity War on Want described facilities in the Gaza Strip as "adverse and deteriorating" and said conditions "at best abhorrent."

Israel's recession has left 35 per cent of the active population in the occupied territories without jobs, while living standards are being eroded by a 200 per cent inflation. A hospital bed in Gaza costs the equivalent of \$50 a night, 20 weeks of wages for many workers, according to War on Want.

Clinics run by the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA), already short of funds, are often out of medicine. "The picture is grim," War on Want said.

The Gaza Strip is one of the world's most densely populated areas with a population of 800,000, 70 per cent of whom are refugees. As a result of overcrowding, said one researcher quoted by War on Want, "the poverty and health problems are severely intensified." War on Want among the charities active in the area, though it says permission still is awaited from Israel to open a clinic.

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Cyclone islands fight back from disaster

By John Madeley
Special to The Star

HONIARA, SOLOMON Islands — Mature forests were uprooted and concrete bridges torn down like paper. Houses were ripped to shreds and whole villages buried under landslides. Roads were obliterated by widespread flooding. One-third of the population was made homeless and 87 people died.

Disaster came when cyclone Namu struck the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific early on 19 May, 1988. The exposed islands are no strangers to cyclones, but Namu was the most devastating on record.

In just over four hours, the cyclone caused winds of 60-60 knots and brought 8,250 mm of rain — about one-fifth of the islands' normal rainfall in a year. Flooding was so severe that thousands of people had to abandon their homes and climb trees for safety.

As dawn broke, the country's infrastructure lay in ruins; homes, roads and smallholdings throughout the islands were ruined as crops were lost and animals died.

On the largest island, Guadalcanal, 70 per cent of the home gardens on which some 5,000 people rely for most of their food, were damaged. Islanders faced a bleak

future. Damage throughout the archipelago's 29,785 Sq Km land area totalled more than \$10.5 million, equivalent to 13 per cent of national income.

Estimates suggested that up to 15 per cent of oil palm production, 20 per cent of copra and 25 per cent of coconuts would be lost in the three years following the disaster. Central Bank governor Tony Hughes calculated the country's foreign exchange deficit would double in that period because of cyclone Namu.

While cash crop output is taking time to recover, and some of the worst affected areas are still inaccessible by road, a unique effort in aid co-ordination is helping this island state of 280,000 people return to normal quicker than anyone had dared hope.

After assessing the damage, the government appealed for \$6.3 million in international aid for 20 rehabilitation projects. Britain, Australia and New Zealand, United Nations agencies, and the European Community were quick to respond — but there was a snag.

"Each donor has different rules and procedures for aid," said Ross Mountain, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) deputy resident representative in Fiji. "The problems of how to co-ordinate the aid and how to ensure bureaucratic delays

and confusion were kept to a minimum."

The UNDP, which co-ordinates UN development projects worldwide, took on the task of helping to channel aid from all donors into the recovery programme. Donors were asked to agree to make their normal aid rules secondary to the urgent needs of the Solomon Islanders, who needed the rehabilitation programme to run fast and smoothly.

"The Programme today is a remarkable tribute to a co-ordinated aid effort, a key reason why so much has been achieved," said Mountain.

One of the most pressing needs was to rebuild thousands of damaged houses. A self-help rural housing reconstruction project was launched, with the government and aid donors supplying help and materials, but the people undertaking rebuilding themselves.

Technical experts from the Geneva-based International Labour Organization (ILO) showed how to make their houses stronger to give them a better chance of resisting future cyclones. The European Community gave corrugated roofing for 7,000 homes, since cyclone Namu had destroyed nearly all the thatched roofs which Islanders traditionally use to make roofs. A remarkable recovery now is taking

place. Most houses have been rebuilt stronger than before.

Malaria is rife in the Solomon Islands, where a few years ago an estimated one person in three suffered from the disease. Progress has since been made with control measures such as spraying and the wider use of mosquito nets.

By threatening water supplies, however, cyclone Namu threatened to wipe out that progress. Many village wells were choked by the mud and silt hurled around in the cyclone. Determined efforts were made to prevent a renewed outbreak of malaria.

"The important thing was to improve water and sanitation as quickly as possible," said David Parkinson of the World Health Organization (WHO), which was advising the government on health aspects of rehabilitation. Aid from Australia, plus technical help from WHO water engineers, has now brought new wells and low-cost pumps to many villages. Malaria is in check — although the quality of the water still leaves much to be desired. "In some areas the whole water table is contaminated," said a WHO engineer.

Rebuilding roads and bridges also has been crucial to recovery. Life came to a virtual standstill on the country's second largest island, Malaita, because of severed transport and communications

links. Many people found it difficult to leave their villages; access to towns, markets, clinics and schools was blocked. The ILO was given the task of using a \$85,000 UNDP grant for a road reconstruction project on island.

Project co-ordinator Charles Williams said the task was not just to build roads but to do so in a way that would allow maximum participation by local communities. This has meant using labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive road-building methods. "Bulldozers are out — people are in," Williams said.

Dirt roads are currently being relaid and surfaced, some with river gravel or local coral, which gives a surface like bitumen. Local people are being trained to maintain the new roads. The co-ordinated aid effort has helped the Solomon Islanders recover from the cyclone, but one aspect of the recovery owes little to aid. Subsistence agriculture — the home gardens — has shown remarkable resilience. While food aid was needed in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, most gardens now have recovered to produce the varied range of tropical foodstuffs that the Islanders enjoy.

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Project co-ordinator Cheryl Williams said the task was not to build roads but to do so in a way that would allow maximum participation by local communities. This has meant using labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive road-building methods. "The dozers are out — people are doing the work," Williams said.

Dirt roads are currently being relaid and surfaced, some with river gravel or local coral. Williams gives a surface like bitumen. Local people are being trained to maintain the new roads. The co-ordinated aid effort has helped Solomon Islanders recover from the cyclone, but one aspect of recovery owes little to aid. Subsistence agriculture — the backbone of the islands' economy — has shown remarkable resilience. While food aid was needed in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, most people now have recovered to produce the varied range of tropical crops that the islanders export. John Madeley, editor and publisher of the British-based magazine International Agriculture Development, recently visited the Solomon Islands.

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Many in the medical profession and charities openly acknowledge that the political problems that cause such heart-rending treatment of the innocent would not go away easily, so the need now is to ease suffering as much as possible.

The problems seem to be particularly severe in Lebanon, the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to medical experts based in London. The boys, Bilal Shebab, aged seven, one of 12 children of a Palestinian family from the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp, and Samir Ibrahim, aged nine, a Lebanese child, became paraplegic after they were wounded by snipers' bullets.

Bilal and Samir were brought to Britain, to be treated in a specialized hospital at Stoke Mandeville, England, following intervention by Pauline Cutting, a doctor with the London-based charity Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). They returned to Beirut on 4 December, cheerfully ready to take on the murderous lifestyle of the embattled city. Both were well on way to full recovery as they were doted on by their families.

Their story is not typical, however. Bilal and Samir were among 30 children shortlisted for special treatment in Britain. Several have gone to France and Holland. That group itself was only a fraction of the community that needs urgent medical help in Beirut.

"One must not become complacent about the situation as a result of just one success story," said one MAP official. According to Mike Holmes,



With the lack of basic facilities, diseases spread rapidly in the camps

The health challenge

Freedom from illness remains illusory for many inhabitants of the war zones of Lebanon and the Israeli-held territories. In Gaza and the West Bank, the problem is compounded by lack of emergency aid, as illustrated by recent troubles. Now attempts are being made to increase international medical assistance. The primary aim is to ease suffering amongst the people while political problems remain unresolved.

spokesman for MAP, "Although we do all we can to help the victims of war in Lebanon, it is only under exceptional circumstances that we are able to arrange the transportation of patients to England for treatment".

"We still have major problems to tackle," he said. "We try to do all we can to help displaced people in refugee camps as economically as we can, a task far from easy."

Despite recurrent attacks, first from Christian Phalangist forces then from Shia Muslim Amal militia men, some 30,000 Palestinians still live in the re-

fugee camps, including Sabra and Chatila, scenes of massacres in 1982. Bourj Al Barajneh and Mar Elias. Not only are the inhabitants short of normal health care, but the siege during March and April 1987 gravely underlined the lack of emergency help.

Operating from its London headquarters, MAP has tried to fill that gap. Founded in Britain in 1972 as Palestinian Medical Aid, the charity was relaunched under its new name in 1984. Among the initiators of the relaunch were British and other citizens who were in Lebanon in 1982 and witnessed the horrors of the Israeli invasion.

Now, three MAP hospitals in Beirut camps offer treatment "without discrimination and regardless of nationality, religion or political affiliation." The numbers of wounded and sick children treated by doctors working free of charge for MAP runs into hundreds. Donations ensure a steady supply of medicines for treatment and immunization programmes.

During the spring siege and the following weeks, when Syrian troops entered Beirut to expel Amal militia men, medical teams such as those of Pauline Cutting, the Malaysian-born

the border, in Israel, or for Palestinian sick wounded also leave much to be desired, according to charity medical officials. An Israeli researcher quoted by the charity Want described facilities in the Gaza Strip as "sad and deteriorating" and said conditions "at best abhorrent".

Israel's recession has left 10 per cent of the active population unemployed, while living standards are eroded by a 200 per cent inflation. A hospital bed in Gaza costs the equivalent \$50 a night, 10 weeks of wages for many workers, according to War on Want.

Clinics run by the United Nations Refugee and Relief Agency (UNRWA), already short of funds, are often out of medical supplies. "The picture is grim," War on Want said.

The Gaza Strip is one of the world's most densely populated areas with a population of 800,000, 70 per cent of whom are refugees. As a result of overcrowding, said one researcher quoted by War on Want, "the dirty and health problems are severely intensified." War on Want among the charities active in the area, though it says permission is awaited from Israel to open a clinic.

Natalie Warren-Green has written frequently on current affairs and issues related to the developing world.

Cyclone islands fight back from disaster

By John Madeley
Special to The Star

HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS — Mature forests were uprooted and concrete bridges torn down like paper. Houses were ripped to shreds and whole villages buried under landslides. Roads were obliterated by widespread flooding. One-third of the population was made homeless and 87 people died.

Disaster came when cyclone Namu struck the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific early on 19 May, 1988. The exposed islands are no strangers to cyclones, but Namu was the most devastating on record.

In just over four hours, the cyclone caused winds of 50-80 knots and brought 8,250 mm of rain — about one-fifth of the islands' normal rainfall in a year. Flooding was so severe that thousands of people had to abandon their homes and climb trees for safety.

As dawn broke, the country's infrastructure lay in ruins; homes, roads and smallholdings throughout the islands were ruined as crops were lost and animals died.

On the largest island, Guadalcanal, 70 per cent of the home gardens on which some 6,000 people rely for most of their food, were damaged. Islanders faced a bleak

future. Damage throughout the archipelago's 29,785 Sq Km land area totalled more than \$10.5 million, equivalent to 13 per cent of national income.

Estimates suggested that up to 15 per cent of oil palm production, 20 per cent of copra and 25 per cent of cocoa would be lost in the three years following the disaster. Central Bank governor Tony Hughes calculated the country's foreign exchange deficit would double in that period because of cyclone Namu.

While cash crop output is taking time to recover, and some of the worst affected areas are still inaccessible by road, a unique effort in aid co-ordination is helping the island state of 280,000 people return to normal quicker than anyone had dared hope.

After assessing the damage, the government appealed for \$6.3 million in international aid for 20 rehabilitation projects. Britain, Australia and New Zealand, United Nations agencies, and the European Community were quick to respond — but there was a snag.

"Each donor has different rules and procedures for aid," said Roas Mountain, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) deputy resident representative in Fiji. "The problems of how to co-ordinate the aid and how to ensure bureaucratic delays

and confusion were kept to a minimum."

The UNDP, which co-ordinates UN development projects worldwide, took on the task of helping to channel aid from all donors into the recovery programme. Donors were asked to agree to make their normal aid rules secondary to the urgent needs of the Solomon Islanders, who needed the rehabilitation programme to run fast and smoothly.

"The Programme today is a remarkable tribute to a co-ordinated aid effort, a key reason why so much has been achieved," said Mountain.

One of the most pressing needs was to rebuild thousands of damaged houses. A self-help rural housing reconstruction project was launched, with the government and aid donors supplying help and materials, but the people undertaking rebuilding themselves.

Technical experts from the Geneva-based International Labour Organization (ILO) showed islanders how to make their houses stronger to give them a better chance of resisting future cyclones. The European Community gave corrugated roofing for 7,000 homes, since cyclone Namu had destroyed nearly all the thatched roofs which islanders traditionally use to make roofs. A remarkable recovery now is taking

place. Most houses have been rebuilt stronger than before.

Malaria is rife in the Solomon Islands, where a few years ago an estimated one person in three suffered from the disease. Progress has since been made with control measures such as spraying and the wider use of mosquito nets.

By threatening water supplies, however, cyclone Namu threatened to wipe out that progress. Many village wells were choked by the mud and silt hurled around in the cyclone. Determined efforts were made to prevent a renewed outbreak of malaria.

"The important thing was to improve water and sanitation as quickly as possible," said David Parkinson of the World Health Organization (WHO), which was advising the government on health aspects of rehabilitation. Aid from Australia, plus technical help from WHO water engineers, has now brought new wells and low-cost pumps to many villages. Malaria is in check — although the quality of the water still leaves much to be desired. "In some areas the whole water table is contaminated," said a WHO engineer.

Rebuilding roads and bridges also has been crucial to recovery. Life came to a virtual standstill on the country's second largest island, Malaita, because of severed transport and communications

links. Many people found it difficult to leave their villages, access towns, markets, clinics and schools was blocked. The ILO given the task of rebuilding the \$85,000 UNDP grant for a road reconstruction project on the island.

Project co-ordinator Cheryl Williams said the task was not to build roads but to do so in a way that would allow maximum participation by local communities. This has meant using labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive road-building methods. Dozers are out — people are out.

Dirt roads are currently being relaid and surfaced, some with river gravel or local coral. This gives a surface like bitumen. People are being trained to maintain the new roads. The co-ordinated aid effort has helped Solomon Islanders recover from the cyclone, but one aspect of recovery owes little to aid. Subsistence agriculture — the backbone of the islands' economy — has shown remarkable resilience. While food of the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, most people now have recovered to produce the varied range of tropical crops that the islanders export. John Madeley, editor and publisher of the British-based magazine International Agriculture Development, recently visited the Solomon Islands.